The New-York Times.

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TELEGRAMS.

Encouraging French Gains Through the Recent Sorties from Paris.

No Junction Yet of the Two Divisions of the Army of the Loire.

A Decided Victory Reported by Gen. Faidherbe.

An All-Day Battle and Final Rout of the Prussians.

Havre and Cherbourg Prepared for a Vigorous Defense.

Intense Cold Weather in the South and West.

THE WAR WITHIN FRANCE.

The Situation Encouraging for the French—No Junction Yet, However, of the Two Divisions of the Army of the Loire—The Recent Sorties from Paris—Operations of Gen. Faidherbe.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—There is confirmation of the recent successful sorties from Paris to the north, south and east, with the capture of several strong positions; but yesterday's announcement from French sources that the two divisions of the Army of the Loire had effected a junction, appears to be without foundation in fact. The general situation, however, is more encouraging for the French.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 23.—During the great sortie from Paris on Wednesday, Gen. DUCROT took many hundred prisoners. The general situation is more encouraging for the French.

PRUSSIAN RETREATS.

The non-occupation of Tours and the retreat of other Prussian forces toward Orleans are said to be the result of strategetical movements of Gens. CHAUZY and BOURBAKI. Rouen has been almost entirely evacuated by the Prussians. There were only 1,500 German soldiers there yesterday.

SUCCESSES BY GEN. FAIDHERBE.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 24.—In an official dispatch, telegraphed from Lille on the night of the 23d, Gen. FAIDHERBE announces to the Minister of War that his army engaged the enemy at Pont Noyelle on that day. The battle lasted from 11 in the forenoon until 6 o'clock in the evening. For the greater portion of the time it was an artillery duel, which was finally terminated by a charge by the French infantry along the whole line. The enemy were driven back, and the French troops remained masters of the field.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A dispatch from Brussels says Gen. FAIDHERBE is being surrounded by the Germans, and that the Prussians have occupied Soissons and Sissone.

BALLOON REPORTS FROM PARIS.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 24.—Advices from Paris to the night of the 22d have been received by balloon, which landed near Nuits. There was no engagement on that day, (Thursday,) but a general battle was regarded as imminent. The journals estimate the losses of the French in the combats of the 21st at about 800 killed and wounded, and speak in glowing terms of the great confidence and ardor displayed by the National Guard.

King William's Report of Recent Sorties from Paris—The French Easily Repulsed—Intensely Cold Weather.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—Queen AUGUSTA has just made public the following dispatch from King WILLIAM, dated at Versailles:

"The French made a sortie in the direction of Staines and Bourget, prompted by the mistaken idea that a French army of relief was approaching. Many French prisoners were taken in the assault on the Saxon position. The sortie was easily repulsed. The cold is intense."

Havre and Cherbourg now Strongly Fortified—A Strong Prussian Force Encamped Near Dieppe.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 24.—Havre is now so strongly fortified that no fears are apprehended of an attack. All the works about the city are fully manned and supplied, and there are several war vessels riding at anchor before the city. Cherbourg is also regarded as impregnable to any force the Germans can bring against it. The fortifications on the land side have been completed and armed, and, as at Havre, frigates are stationed in the roads.

LONDON, Dec. 22—Evening.—Information has been received from Cherbourg that there are now 60,000 French troops at Havre.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A French squadron has left Brest for Havre, and additional ships of war are being got in readiness for the same destination. ....The Prussians have left Dieppe, but are encamped near by in heavy force. Two French iron-clads are stationed off the port.

The French Prisoners of War—Officers Breaking Their Parole—Bismarck Threatens—Escaped Prisoners Surrendered by the Dutch Shot by the Germans.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—Count BISISMARCK has addressed a circular note to the representatives of the North German Confederation at foreign Courts, in which he calls their attention to the fact that French officers are breaking their parole not to serve in the army during the present war, and saying that, as the French Government sanctions this proceeding, peremptory measures will be taken to check it. The Count adds that in the event of future complaints of the kind, proper judgment can be passed upon the offenders at Prussian headquarters.

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—Seeing that the French Government sanctions the breaches of parole on the part of her soldiers, Prussia is considering the propriety of withdrawing certain privileges now extended to the French prisoners of war in Germany.

PRISONERS SHOT.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—M. CHADOURDY has sent a diplomatic dispatch to the Cabinet of the Hague, in which he says that he learns, with horror and indignation, that four escaped French prisoners surrendered by the Dutch to the Germans were shot. He recalls to the attention of the Dutch Cabinet the principle that the rights of a people are a law superior to any ordinary question of justice, and protests that the courage and misfortunes of the French soldiers give them a claim to hospitality among civilized constitutional States.

ESCAPE OF PRISONERS.

ANTWERP, Dec. 24.—Twenty-two French prisoners, who were confined in this city, made their escape yesterday.

The Luxembourg Affair—France and the Approaching London Conference.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The special correspondent of the London *Telegraph* says, that in the event of an appeal by Prussia to a European Court for arbitration of the Luxembourg affair, the Government of Great Britain will be invited to undertake it. It is said the Government in Paris will send M. THIERS as its representative to the London Conference. Report also says the French Government has requested the English Government to obtain egress from Paris for its plenipotentiary to the approaching Conference.

Insurrection at Rheims—A Force of Saxons on the Way to Suppress it—Hardship Predicted for the Germans in France.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Advices from Versailles state that 6,000 Saxons have left Sauny, with the intention of making a forced march to Rheims, where the people are reported to have risen in insurrection against the authority of the Prussian commander.

It is said that the Commune of Lyons has sent an address to the French Government, insisting upon fewer decrees and proclamations, and more boldness and energy. The *Morning Post*, in its issue of yesterday, predicts for the Prussians great hardships and losses during the coming Winter, because the Parisians have demonstrated their ability to resist indefinitely.

Prince NAPOLEON recently paid a visit to Gen. CHANGARNIER. His propositions relative to the French Crown were instantly rejected.

GENERAL EUROPEAN NEWS.

Removal of the Italian Capital to Rome—Mont Cenis Tunnel Almost Through—No Deficit in the Prussian Finances—A Sculling Match on the Thames.

FLORENCE, Dec. 24.—In the Parliament yesterday, Signor ARREZUNA urged the immediate removal of the capital to Rome. Signor FOSCARSELLI argued against the proposition.... Only five metres of the Mont Cenis tunnel remain to be pierced. The work will soon be completed.

TURIN, Dec. 23.—The Mont Cenis tunnel will probably be completed to-morrow.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—Herr CAMPHAUSEN has made the important announcement in the Prussian Chambers that no deficit is probable in the finances of the monarchy for the years 1870 and 1871.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A scullers' match between J. GRIFFITH and H. THOMAS, for £25 a side, came off yesterday at Brentford, on the Thames, and was won by the former. THOMAS led at first, but was overhauled, and beaten by five lengths.

Probable Termination of the Concordat—A German Residence for the Pope.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—It is said that M. GAMBETTA has announced to Rome his desire that France terminate the Concordat, in order to effect the entire separation of Church and State in France.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—It is understood that the King of Prussia has granted Fulda, in Hesse-Cassel, to the Pope, as a residence.

THE PACIFIC COAST.

Filing Down Gold Pieces—Collision in Port—Taxing Chinese as Foreigners—A Case Under the Fifteenth Amendment.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—ROBERT BIBER was convicted yesterday, in the United States Circuit Court, of reducing the value of $20 gold pieces by filing. He had been carrying on operations of this kind extensively in company with other persons....The bark *Nic. Biddle*, from Port Blakely, in entering this port last night, came in collision with the bark *Neuva Brigardello*, from Marseilles....The case of Sheriff JACKSON, of Trinity County, indicted by the Grand Jury of the United States, for violating the Fifteenth Amendment by collecting the foreign miners' tax from Chinese, will be tried as soon as possible. The ablest counsel in the State have been engaged for either side, and the result of the trial is looked for with much interest as largely affecting the income of several mining counties, and involving important political questions.

THE COLD WEATHER.

A Cool Breeze on Mount Washington—Four Inches of Ice in Virginia—The Mercury Below Zero in Various Quarters—The Coldest Weather Remembered at the South.

SUMMIT MOUNT WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—At 7 P. M. barometer stood at 23.117, and the thermometer 16° below zero; relative humidity, 52.100; wind, north-west; velocity of wind, seventy miles per hour.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 24.—The thermometer here, at 8 o'clock this morning, stood at 6°, and at Green Brier White Sulphur Springs, West Va., 6° below zero. Ice four inches thick formed at Staunton, Va.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 24.—Last night was the coldest of the season. At Indianapolis, at 8 o'clock A. M., today, the thermometer indicated 6° below zero; at Lafayette, 10° below; at New-Albany, 2° below; at Richmond, 5° below; at Union City, Ind., 12° below; at Vincennes, 10° below, and at Terre Haute, 11° below.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Dec. 24.—This is the coldest morning of the season. At sunrise the thermometer indicated 4° below zero, and some thermometers on the Hill indicated as low as 10°. The weather is clear. At noon the mercury indicated 6° above zero.

Today has been cold, though the temperature was not below 6° above zero at midday. To-night has arisen slowly cold, and has acted unfavorably on Christmas sales, many persons not venturing out.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 24.—Weather clear and very cold. Thermometer, 20°.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 24.—Thermometer at Lookout Mountain College 4° below zero this morning, the coldest since observations were commenced.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 24.—The coldest spell of weather ever remembered here began last night. The thermometer at one time today touched 14°, and is now again falling.

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 24.—The weather is clear. It is the coldest since 1852. The mercury last night indicated 20°. It is now 28°. Damage to the orange-trees is apprehended.

THE EAST.

News from the Cable Repair Steamer—The Late Accident at Hartford.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Dec. 24.—A vessel which spoke the steamer *Robert Lowe* has just arrived, and brings a letter from Capt. KERR dated yesterday. Continuous gales are reported, but everything is ready to avail of the first moderate weather to repair the Atlantic cable.

HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 24.—Rev. JAMES W. STRONG, of Fairbault, Minn., who was seriously injured yesterday by the accident which caused the death of Rev. COLLINS STONE, of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, in this city, is better today, and there are strong reasons to hope for his recovery. At the Coroner's inquest, today, in the case of Mr. STONE, the evidence tended to show that Mr. STONE, who was driving, saw the approaching train, and endeavored to cross the track in advance of it, and that the engineer used all possible efforts to avoid the collision.

Fire at Bangor, Me.—A Large Business Block Badly Damaged.

BANGOR, Me., Dec. 24.—Bowman's block, on the Kenduskeag bridge, was damaged by fire this morning to an amount of about $8,000, and the stocks of several confectionery stores were entirely destroyed. The Mercantile Library Association and MARSTON's photograph rooms, in the building, were considerably damaged. The following is the insurance on the stocks of confectionery, which are a total loss: Henry Lane, [illegible]; Wentworth & Pond, $2,000; McFarland, [illegible]; Reuben Soule, $500. S. R. MERRITT, fancy goods, lost heavily. The insurance is not ascertained. WHITE & LEONARD, jewelry and fancy goods, lost slight. The *Whig & Courier* office, in the same block, escaped damage. The block was owned by HOLLIS BOWMAN and the estate of SAMUEL CLARKE.

A SAD DISASTER.

The Steamer Aries Ashore—Five Men Lost—Two Frozen to Death.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24, 1870.—The steamer *Aries* came ashore at Henford Bar at 7 o'clock on the morning of the 23d. A boat was immediately launched to take soundings, but, before getting a great distance from the steamer, it upset, and the mate and four seamen were lost; three of the party being drowned. The two others succeeded in getting on the bottom of the boat, where, after a few hours' suffering they froze to death. Two of the bodies floated ashore at Cape May today.

THE WEST.

Financial Embarrassments of a Cincinnati Drug Firm—Meeting of Tobacconists—Population of Ohio—Governorship of Utah.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 24.—It was made public today that F. E. SUIRE & Co., prominent druggists, have become somewhat embarrassed. Though in money circles it has been known for some time, it was not till this week that things took the present shape. It seems that some time ago Mr. SUIRE indorsed for a considerable amount the paper of the United States Proprietary Medicine Company, the principal stock of which he also purchased. This paper went to protest, on which Mr. SUIRE asked extension on his own paper. It is understood the firm have asked for six, twelve and eighteen months, and that, so far as heard from, very favorable responses have been received. The house is an extensive one, and nearly all its liabilities do not exceed $150,000, while its assets are $312,000. Impression prevails they will work through safely....Dealers in leaf tobacco, manufacturers and warehousemen, held a meeting today to devise some equitable system for tobacco inspection. A committee was finally appointed, to report on Wednesday....The exact population of Ohio, according to the corrected returns, is 2,663,681....PATRICK MCCANN was caught between his own wagon and another and crushed to death, in the Seventeenth Ward, yesterday.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Dec. 24.—The name of Chief-Justice MCKEAN is used at Washington in connection with the Governorship of Utah without his authority. It is authoritively stated that he is not, and will not, become a candidate.

GEORGIA ELECTION.

The State Largely Democratic—Several Congressmen and Three-fourths of the Legislature of that Party—Additional Figures.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Dec. 24.—Sufficient returns from all sections of the State have been received to show that the State has gone largely Democratic, and it is tolerably certain that the following Democrats have been elected to Congress:

First District, W. W. PAINE to the Forty-first Congress; A. T. MCINTIRE to the Forty-second. Third District, WM. F. WRIGHT to the Forty-first and Forty-second. Fifth District, L. A. COOKER to the Forty-first, and D. M. DUBOZ to the Forty-second. Sixth District, WM. P. PRICE to the Forty-first and the Forty-second. Seventh District, P. M. B. YOUNG to the Forty-first and the Forty-second. The Second and Fourth Districts are doubtful. It is thought they have gone Republican, but it will take an official count to decide. The Democrats have elected three-fourths of the members of the Legislature.

MACON, Ga., Dec. 24.—Dodge County, Democratic, TIFT 83 majority; Pike County, Democratic, LAWTON for Forty-first Congress, 288 majority—for Forty-second Congress, 389 majority; Jones County 100 Radical, probably; Putnam County, 300 to 400 Radical, probably; Baldwin County, 200 Radical; Crawford County, largely Democratic; Pulaski County, 400 Democratic; Upson County, Democratic, LAWTON has 86 majority; Henry County gives LAWTON (Dem.,) 340 majority; Butts County, Democratic majority, 180; Wilcox County, Democratic; Jerrell County gives 407 Democratic majority. It is believed at Albany that TIFT is elected to Congress.

CRIMES AND CRIMINALS.

Murder and Suicide near Syracuse—Express Robbery at Pensacola—Fatal Shooting Affray in Tennessee—Sentenced for Perjury — Burglarious Operations.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 24.—A double horror occurred on Friday evening at Callamez, six miles from this City. LORENZO D. GARRETT, aged thirty-two, murdered his father-in-law, JAMES C. TALLMAN, aged sixty-seven. GARRETT attacked TALLMAN in the latter's barn-yard, and broke his skull with an ax, killing him instantly. GARRETT then went to his own barn, about six rods distant, and hanged himself. The two men had been quarreling about property for some years past.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—A letter received here from Pensacola says on the 12th inst. the Southern Express Company was robbed a few miles from that place. There were several packages of money—one of $12,000, from the Navy Department, which was probably intended for the Pensacola Navy-yard; another package of $900, and several other small sums, amounting altogether to about $13,000 in currency—all of which was stolen. The money was left in a car over night by a temporary messenger, of which opportunity the robbers availed themselves.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 24.—W. H. WISNER, son of the late Radical candidate for Congress of this State, shot and killed Mr. STAHLMAN, agent of the Southern Express Company at Shelbyville, in a quarrel on Thursday evening, arising out of a refusal on Mr. STAHLMAN's part to give WISNER a receipt for money paid on a C. O. D. package.

HUDSON, N. Y., Dec. 24.—The hardware-store of LATHROP & REYNOLDS, in Kinderhook Village, was entered by burglars last night, and robbed of a large quantity of cutlery, revolvers and plated-ware. A liberal reward is offered for the apprehension of the thieves.

An Extraordinary Sensation in East St. Louis—How an Elephant Attacked a House, and How He Died.

From the St. Louis Republican, Dec. 21.

A sensation of the first water swept East St. Louis yesterday morning of so unique and exciting a character that it will not be forgotten for many a long day. At about 3½ o'clock yesterday morning Mr. EDWARD S. BRADLEY, a citizen of East St. Louis, was awakened by his wife with the intelligence that burglars were attempting to effect an entrance to the house, which, it may be stated, is a two-story frame situated on Third-street. The upper portion of the dwelling is occupied by the family for sleeping apartments, while one of the lower rooms serves as a room for an old lady named FLYNN, a member of the household.

On learning that some cause of alarm really existed, Mr. BRADLEY arose, and grasping a huge cavalry sword, stationed himself at the window, expecting every moment to see the ingress or attempted ingress of some daring thief, and determined to defend his fireside at all hazards. While thus waiting a sudden crash was heard from below, as if the whole side of the house had been jammed in, and at the same time the old lady was heard to scream piercingly, as if wild with fear. According to the story, the window and the bureau near it were suddenly dashed into the middle of the room. Her husband is a night-watchman, and being soon expected home, she thought he must have been out drunk and was attempting to get in through the window. She sprang from her bed and seized what she supposed to be the retreating leg of a man. It had a queer feel, however, and was drawn outward with violence, and the old lady having advanced close to the shattered window, saw, to her horror, the towering bulk of an enormous elephant. Unable to overcome the shock, she fell almost insensible to the floor. At this stage of affairs, Mr. BRADLEY, with his drawn sabre, started to the rescue. The stairs leading below are on the outside of the house, and as he descended he encountered the elephant, who appeared determined to ascend the steps. A few blows of the steel blade on the trunk cowed the huge brute, and he commenced a retreat. He backed out of the yard and took a northwardly course, until he arrived at a saloon owned by Mr. CHARLES SCHAFFNER, at which place he stopped, took a general observation of the surroundings, then making a desperate charge, he shivered a large door to atoms. This last affair was the close of his damage. He wandered off through the silent streets and at daylight was found near the southeastern depot, dead, having, it is said, died from the effects of the cold. The explanation of the business was soon ascertained. The elephant belonged to a menagerie which was going east on the Vandalia Railroad. The elephant was left at dark by the keeper in a railroad car, being, as was supposed, securely locked in. During the night, however, he broke the chain which fastened his leg, tore down the door, and started on his voyage of death.

WASHINGTON.

Preparing for the Holidays—Cold Weather at the Capital—Weekly Treasury Statement—Theft in a Custom-House—All Quiet at the Departments.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Every other subject is forgotten here, in the all-absorbing one of preparing for the holiday season and its inauguration with Christmas trees and various festivities to-night. It is doubtful if the San Domingo conflict or the feelings aroused by it have been mentioned today in social or official circles. The Government offices were all closed at noon, that the clerks might make their arrangements for the enjoyment of the evening. The weather is very cold—colder, it is said, than any experienced here last Winter. Ice has formed in the river in quantities sufficient to obstruct navigation, and ice-men are gathering ice in the eastern branch two and a half inches thick. The wind has been blowing severely, whirling blinding clouds of dust in every direction; nevertheless, the streets have been thronged with buyers of Christmas presents. As Christmas is on Sunday, all usual observances of the day, except religious services in the Roman Catholic and Episcopalian churches, will be postponed till Monday. The churches are decorated with great profusion, and services will be held in a large number of them at 5 o'clock in the morning, but unless the weather moderates in severity before that hour, piety and fashion will both need to exert their strongest power to bring devotees to a common altar. Altogether Christmas presents a merrier appearance than ever before, but while the affluent enjoy their warm fires and Christmas trees, the terrible cold brings suffering to thousands of the poor, whose Christmas at the best is none of the merriest. Cold of such intensity as we are having now causes distress enough at any time, but just at the moment when everything reminds of the unequal dealings of fortune, the pinching cold of a fireless room is the more painful. Benevolent institutions and individuals are doing their utmost; yet this city has been greatly favored, and the temperature has not fallen so low as in many cities further South. The sky is clear this evening, and with a few inches of snow all the realities of a New-England Winter night would be upon us.

Dispatch to the Associated Press.

ALL QUIET AT THE DEPARTMENTS.

There is very little doing in any of the Departments today. In nearly all of them the clerks were permitted to leave their desks at noon.

OBSTRUCTIONS FROM ICE.

The Aquia Creek steamer did not, in consequence of the ice, arrive here until 11 o'clock this morning, being six or seven hours behind time, thus losing the early morning railroad connection with the North.

SURRATT MEETS WITH AN OBSTACLE.

J. H. SURRATT having announced the repetition of his personal experiences in connection with the late rebellion, next Friday evening, at Lincoln Hall, the joint stock company of the Young Men's Christian Association, in whose building the hall is located, have refused SURRATT the use of it.

THEFT IN A CUSTOM-HOUSE.

The Treasury Department has information that $1,000 in gold were recently stolen from the cashier at the New-Orleans Custom-house and all efforts to discover the thieves were unavailing. Collector CASEY refunded the amount stolen from his own private funds.

TREASURY STATEMENT.

The following official statement covers the transactions of the past week:

Amount of fractional currency received....	$678,500
Shipment of notes....	5,688,848
Shipment of fractional currency....	557,017
Held as security for bank circulation....	345,874,600
Held for deposits of public moneys....	15,819,500
Mutilated notes burned....	545,800
Total amount burned to date....	34,820,568
Bank currency destroyed....	769,300
Bank circulation outstanding at this date....	304,612,609
Internal revenue receipts today....	281,148
Total revenue receipts for the fiscal year to date....	81,460,759
Fractional currency redeemed and destroyed	560,074

Adverse Report Against the Annexation of Westchester County Towns to New-York.

A number of influential gentlemen residing in the towns of West Farms, Westchester, Morrisania and Yonkers assembled at Armstrong's Hotel, at Fordham, yesterday afternoon, to hear the report of a committee, appointed at a previous meeting, to prepare a bill for legislative action in relation to organizing a new form of government for the three lower towns of Westchester County, viz.: Morrisania, West Farms and Westchester.

Hon. JOHN B. HASKIN presented a report which, after alluding to the scheme which proposed to annex seven of the most populous and wealthy towns of the county to New-York, with a view of affording those in the City an enlarged sphere of operations, advocated the incorporating of the towns above named into one city, with a Mayor, Aldermen, Assistant Aldermen, Recorder or City Judge, Justices of the Peace, Commissioner of Public Works, Commissioners and Superintendent of Police, and other officials. Dividing the new city into nine wards, each to have its Alderman and two Assistant Aldermen. Morrisania to comprise four wards as at present, West Farms three, and Westchester two wards. The report sets forth that the territory sought to be annexed to New-York contains an area twice the extent of the City and County of New-York, and contains a population of 75,000 inhabitants, who would have a very poor representation in the City Councils, according to the programme laid down by those who are engaged in the annexation scheme. R. H. SHIELDS, Esq., Justice of the Peace of Fordham, desired to know which scheme, annexation made not only money, but also pure water flow the freest in the proposed section of Westchester County, for upon those points would exert the most influence in the matter.

Mr. LUDLOW, of Westchester, stated that in behalf of the town in which he resided, he desired it to be understood that he was opposed to both schemes, annexation or being incorporated with West Farms into a great city.

FRANCIS BARRETTE, Esq., of West Farms, desired to be left as they were; but if any change is made, as he felt assured there would be, he preferred to be annexed to New-York, rather than have his town incorporated with Morrisania and Westchester into a city. He had been assured that the annexation scheme was destined to be carried out, and therefore he, for one, would accept the situation as philosophically as possible.

The report of the Committee was submitted to the meeting, and almost unanimously carried.

On motion, a committee of three, consisting of Mr. H. DE GRAFF, of Morrisania; JOHN B. HASKIN, of West Farms, and DUNTON PEARSALL, was appointed to watch the proceedings of the Legislature, and thwart as far as possible the proposed annexation scheme.

The meeting then adjourned.

Dr. M. COOK, of Utica, who has been for some months past in the Prussian service, has written to a friend in the former city, giving a description of his reception by the Prussians. In concluding, he says: "When I first came there were about fifteen American physicians here, all very much displeased and disgusted with Prussia and Prussian doctors—whether reasonably so or not, I let you judge. The most of them were almost penniless; some could hardly talk a word of German. Some talked Pennsylvania German, but could not make out one German letter."

CHRISTMAS EVE.

Cheery Scenes in Broadway and the Avenues.

Busy Crowds in and About the Markets.

Pleasant Festivals in the Homes for the Poor and Unfortunate.

Music of the Trinity Chimes---Evening Services---Preparations for To-day's Celebration.

"Candlemass Even," in the old English time, was supposed to commence at early candlelight. In the improvised ways of this Western world, however, time is displaced to accommodate modern notions. So it was "yester-even." It was "Christmas Eve" all the afternoon. Everybody seemed to be about, and all the sidewalks swarmed with pedestrians. The streets were choked with vehicles, and the contentious drivers thereof will have some atonement to make today for the lively epithets they hurled at each other yesterday. The shop windows were constantly besieged with a cordon of sidewalk gazers, whose curious expressions of face and language were quite as interesting as the display that evoked them. The stores, too, were thronged within, and if the mythical "Santa Claus" was an actual embodiment of humanity, he would have gone wild at the demands of the occasion. As it was, his humble servants, the shopmen—so very humble when their counters are besieged with a three-deep line of buyers, all clamorous for immediate attention, were whirled in excitement. It has seemed in recent years that our people procrastinated their Christmas purchases to "the eleventh hour." So it was yesterday, not only in the toy and fancy-goods trade, but in grocery and market stores generally. The clerks, were they agile as acrobats, and did goods jump at their beck, as in a pantomime, were unequal to the demand, and the dignified members of the firms were obliged to enter the work with all their might.

The Toy Shops.

Under the blaze of scores of gas-jets, the treasures of Santa Claus put on a bewildering appearance. The toy-shops were in all their glory, and the throngs moved about as though in a fairy maze. Everybody wanted everything, but everybody could not have, nor pay for so much. So they gazed, hesitated, sauntered around, returned,—saw—came, and were sold. Multitudes were out "under the gaslight," that seldom are seen at that hour—rheumatic uncles, chronic aunties, cross grannies, and other peculiar fossils, who rarely give forth the "milk of human kindness," were out, with papas, mammas, cousins, brothers, sisters, and lovers, in any quantity and variety. Carriage-loads of them rumbled along Broadway, and homeward through Fifth, Madison and other thoroughfares at unseasonable hours. Many of them scarcely slept their "forty winks" after they had finished decking the Christmas tree, at the small hours, on

"'Twas the night before Christmas, and all in the house
Not a creature was stirring—not even a mouse."

On Broadway, Third, Sixth, Eighth, and other avenues, about the same busy, brilliant scenes were enacted. Diamonds flashed their brilliancy against the yellow sheen of gold in the jewelers' stores; clocks kept on tick, and precious gems reflected sparkles. Toys of indescribable variety, and any quantity, puzzled the select men and women buyers in the bazaars. Dry goods, confectionery, bijouterie, and more substantial commodities, teazed the irresolute, eager seekers. And so the day and night passed. Extraordinary crowds and large sales is the summing-up sentence.

The Markets.

And such a time as there was yesterday at the markets! Even when the late night stars winked down upon them, the buyers and sellers were yet busy, and seemed to neither weary nor fear. At Washington, Fulton, Catherine, Tompkins, Jefferson, Central, Union, Clinton, and other markets, there was a steady rush all day. The streets in the vicinity were in a perfect jam. Jehus declaimed, pedestrians dodged and squeezed, policemen tugged and scolded, as the jumble continued. Every man and woman had a turkey, chicken, duck or goose, or perhaps a load of other goodies, with sprigs or garlands of evergreens, and colored flowers and candles. Cart-loads of the same, in every variety, loomed up in all directions. There would be a small mountain could the total be concentrated in a pile.

The Poultry and Game Trade—The Supply, the Demand, and the Prices.

The poultry and game trade of this City is immense. Accurate figures are not easily obtainable, but appearances alone are sufficient to indicate its proportions. The demand, naturally, is just on the eve of great festivals and holidays, but more or less throughout the year it prevails. The supply is furnished in quotas from all sections of the down East, the far West, the middle, and the Canada border States. It is a curious fact that the climate and local peculiarities determines the weight, color and grade of the flesh. An experienced marketman dexterously judges of these points in the appearance. Venison is a dainty to epicures, *i. e.*, good venison. As much of the stock comes from great distances, the quality, in mild weather, is greatly deteriorated by the long journey. From the present time until Spring, while freezing weather continues, the meat will be juicy, solid and well flavored. Since the opening of the Pacific Railroad, a large quantity has been received from the Indians. This is poor generally, because most of it is killed after a long, wearisome hunt, and then conveyed some distance in a bruised condition to the railway station. A better quality in large amounts comes from Minnesota, where the food and range of territory is thought to be especially favorable. "Among the Adirondacks," in this State, very fine deer are hunted and sent to market. Deer-meat is not dear—except as a matter of taste.

Multitudes of prairie chickens arrive in our market in their season, which is after November. They come from all the great Western prairies, and are not expensive food. Pigeons, quails, partridges, pheasants, snipe, rabbits, squirrels and other game are supplied from every direction, and are by no means exorbitantly rated. Turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens come from everywhere. Usually all these are expensive luxuries, but this year is an exception. The remarkably propitious Summer produced an immense increase. All the animals multiplied greatly, and every nest of eggs were hatched successfully. The result has been a vast shipment of stock. The days before Thanksgiving had a brisk market, with good prices and large sales. The mild weather of the succeeding fortnight saw an immense surplus and almost unprecedented dullness. The market never felt such a glut. One man alone lost $10,000 on a single shipment of eggs. Others lost heavily on poultry. As soon as the stock ran low, prices advanced, and have improved since. For three days past they have maintained quite a moderate balance.

Turkeys are quite scarce, but of fine quality and sell for 20 to 25 cents per pound, retail—last year they ranged from 28 to 35 cents. Geese bring from 18 to 20 cents—last year they ranged from 23 to 28 cents. Ducks sell at from 22 to 25 cents—last year they commanded from 28 to 32 cents. Quail sell at $3 50 per dozen—last year they sold at from $4 to $5 50. Prairie chickens sell at $1 75 per pair—less than last year's prices. Chickens bring from 20 to 25 cents—last year they sold at from 28 to 32 cents. Partridges bring from $1 to $1 50 per pair. Excellent venison can be bought for 25 cents per pound. In all these articles the market is moderately stocked, and the quality is good. As will be seen in the figures before quoted here, there is a very favorable inclination of prices toward the present, in comparison with the past holiday seasons.

Christmas Tree at Trinity Church.

The children's Christmas festival at Trinity Church was a most brilliant and interesting affair. Shortly before 3 o'clock in the afternoon the iron-tongued chimes in the tower sent out sweet-toned melodies—songs of Zion—anthems of the Nativity jubilee. At three the great bell tolled, and at its ceasing, the vestry doors opened and the beadle, the choristers and the clergy—Rev. Drs. DIX, OGILBY and VINTTON, and Rev. Messrs. W. D. WALKER, WETHERELL and DUANE—entered in full processional cathedral order. They ascended the chancel steps chanting—

"Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby,
In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child."

Evening prayer was said with full choral responses, the church being illuminated. At its conclusion the Parish children gathered around the alter railings, and accompanied by the two organs, sang their Christmas carol. At the end of each of the five verses, the organs ceased, and the chimes in the tower accompanied the children's sweet voices in the chorus. The effect of this was surpassingly grand. An eloquent and appropriate address was then made by Rev. Dr. OGILBY. The hymn, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem," was sung in superb style, and the 400 children followed their pastors to the grand entrance porch, in the tower, on Broadway. Here stood a beautiful Christmas-tree, fifteen feet high, formed of gas-pipe, and illuminated with star-jets and vari-colored tiny globes, and elaborately dressed in evergreens. It blazed in light. Golden-winged angels, canary birds, silver bells, ribbons, and a variety of ornaments of brilliant hues, clustered among the branches. Long tables were laden with a variety of beautiful gifts, which were distributed by the class teachers to their scholars. The "Gloria in Excelsis" was then sung, and the vast congregation dispersed—the children with hearts and hands full of delight, and the spectators filled with interest at the beautiful spectacle.

Feasting the Boys at the Rivington-Street Lodging-House.

Christmas Eve witnessed no happier scene than was presented at the Lodging-house for Homeless Boys, in Rivington-street. The Superintendent, Mr. GEORGE CALDER, caused the reception and reading rooms to be transformed into bowers composed of evergreens and flowers, each intertwined in the most ingenious and tasteful manner. In the dining-room four long tables were spread, on which plates were laid for 100 boys. The dinner consisted of turkey and vegetables, together with a dessert of mince-pie and oranges. The tables were ornamented with pots of rare and beautiful plants, many of them in bloom. The boys assembled at an early hour, evidently anticipating a genuine treat. Dinner being over, the boys repaired to the reception-room, where had assembled a numerous company of ladies and gentlemen. An hour was then passed in appropriate exercises. The boys sang several Christmas carols, and short, pointed addresses were made by Major SCHUYLER and others.

Caring for the Children at St. Luke's Hospital—Christmas Eve Entertainment.

St. Luke's Hospital was last evening the scene of a very interesting Christmas Eve Festival. At 6½ P. M., many friends of the institution, and as many of the patients as could leave their wards, assembled in the chapel, where a musical service took place, at the conclusion of which Dr. MUHLENBERG, the venerable pastor, delivered a very appropriate address. He referred to Christmas as being peculiarly the children's day, and said that it should be made so pleasant for them that they would remember it ever afterward with delight, and look forward to its recurrence with bright anticipations. Many of them, he said, who were present might not live to see another Christmas occurring on Sunday, but he hoped that they would all prepare to meet the inevitable future which awaits them.

The chapel was very handsomely decorated, the organ, chancel and font having been beautifully encircled with evergreen. The same Christmas emblem was profusely scattered in artistic manner through all the wards. At the conclusion of the service in the chapel, the visitors repaired to the children's ward, upon which the most tender care has been expended. The little ones, numbering nearly fifty, lay in couches. The room was not lighted, but the Christmas-tree, which was erected in one of the cooridors leading to the ward, was illuminated with 100 lights, and on this pleasing object the eyes of the children were rivetted. The kind visitors passed from couch to couch, speaking words of comfort to the little sufferers, and wishing them a merry Christmas. Dr. MUHLENBERG, the author of the beautiful poem, "I Would Not Live Alway," stood at the head of the room, and with the assistance of those present, sang several fine hymns.

When these were concluded, the tree was stripped of its rich treasures, and each child was presented with several nice presents. Most of the children are cripples, and when capable, are removed to St. Johnland, Long Island, where a home for crippled and disabled children has been established, and which is virtually a part of the hospital. Here the children learn such trades as their condition will permit, and the fact that the annual reports of the hospital are made from stereotype plates of which the crippled boys and girls are the type-setters, is a sufficient proof of the utility of St. Johnland. For twelve years this hospital has been steadily prosecuting its noble work, and numbers among its benefactors some of the most prominent ladies and gentlemen in the city. It is capable of accommodating 200 patients, and no case of sudden injury is ever refused admittance; and, although under the auspices of the Protestant Episcopal Church, persons of all religious creeds here find in it a home. Here every means has been devised to strip suffering of its horrors, and nothing has been left undone by Dr. MUHLENBERG, the kind sisters, and the beneficent patrons of this institution to make today a "Merry Christmas" for all the inmates of St. Lukes.

Midnight Scenes.

At 12 o'clock a large number of stores remained open for business, and were well patronized. Nearly all felt quite a depletion of stock, and a consequent plethora of cash receipts. In the neighborhood of Washington Market, traffic seemed loth to pause before the Sabbath's dawning. The glare of four great calcium lights illuminated Barclay and Washington streets with a fierce green hue, and transformed the moving figures along the street into weird hobgoblin shapes, and lent an air of witchery to all the surroundings. A bitter cold air, with fierce gusts of wind, carrying thick clouds of dust in whirling eddies, swept the streets, rattled the shutters, and howled along the housetops. The store windows became heavily frosted, and wore a decidedly sub-zero appearance. Down the Bay a violent gale prevailed, and the frigid air crystalized the spray as soon as it touched the vessels' decks. Along the coast the force of the wind is likely to have produced some serious disasters.

Christmas Sport at the Gold Exchange.

Yesterday, about noon, the members of the Gold Exchange determined to adjourn over at 1 o'clock until Tuesday morning, and thereafter devoted themselves to jollity. Forming in procession, they marched into the Gold Room, deposed the presiding officer, and in mock form impeached Mr. HOYT for inflicting fines a few days ago. Mr. HOYT answered the charge by asking time in which to make his response, citing as precedents the cases of ANDREW JOHNSON and the Governor of Alabama. Time was given him, and the remainder of the session was devoted to fun of the most extravagant character. The leading spirits in the enterprise were JAMES GRANT, who acted as Judge; Mr. FARLEY, who officiated as Clerk of the Mock Court; GEORGE KEEP, who was attired as Mrs. CUNNINGHAM; A. FRESHERN, who wore a mask of a bird, with a long beak, and the other characters were well sustained by Howard Bird, Max Goldschmidt, Russell A. Miles, John Comstock, N. Dessaur, Ben Peters, Henry Scott, H. Noney, L. Fink, John Cole, Noah Cortent, H. Miller, S. Walsh, J. Wallou, S. Keern, W. Bird, John H. Tienken, J. N. Zereger and Jacob Berry. The music was furnished by an amateur band, of which N. Dessaur and John Comstock were the principal performers.

After the performance in the Gold Exchange the masqueraders entered the Long Room and put an entire stop to business while they remained there.

Monday a Non Dies.

Christmas this year falling on Sunday, by mutual consent and in conformity with former custom, the festival will be observed on Monday, which will become a close holiday. All business will be suspended on Monday. The banks and insurance offices, the various Courts and offices of the City and national Government will remain closed throughout the day. The Custom-house will become open from 9 to 10 A. M. for the entrance and clearance of vessels, and the general Post-office will close at 10 A. M. The Stock and Produce Exchanges and Gold Board will adjourn over, and all contracts maturing on that day will hold over to Tuesday.

Children's Festival at the Greenpoint Presbyterian Church.

The North-street Presbyterian Church at Greenpoint, under the pastoral charge of Rev. WM. HOWELL TAYLOR, was the scene of a brilliant and agreeable surprise festival last night. Mr. J. N. STEARNS, of the *National Temperance Advocate*, and Superintendent of the Sabbath-school connected with the church, arranged to give the pastor, as well as the scholars, a complete surprise. In company with the teachers of the Bible and other classes, he labored secretly, assiduously and earnestly during the week ornamenting the church in the most elaborate manner. Evergreens, mementoes, banners, streamers, devices, mottoes, and other decorations were brought into requisition, and to these were added an immense Christmas tree, loaded with rich Christmas fruit, and vases and baskets containing everything that could tempt the appetite. A huge table was placed upon the platform, which was completely loaded with books. Mr. STEARNS has some friends who are missionaries in China, and they sent him 500 little joss gods, and these were distributed among the children.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Services in the Churches—Christmas Sermons to be Preached by the Different Clergymen.

Nearly all of the Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches in the City will probably be filled this morning with unusually large congregations, in anticipation of hearing brilliant Christmas sermons. The services at St. Alban's High Episcopal Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity Church, and other prominent places of worship, will be very elaborate and interesting. The following is a list of some of the divines who will preach Christmas sermons:

Rev. JOHN LOVE, at Antioch Baptist Church, Bleecker and Morton streets, at 10½ A. M.

Rev. GEO. J. MINGINS, Berean Baptist Church, Bedford and Downing streets.

Rev. J. GLENWORTH BUTLER, St. John's M. E. Church, Fifty-third-street, at 10½ A. M.

Services at Church of the Ascension, Fifth-avenue and Tenth-street, at 7:20 P. M.

Services at St. Luke's M. E. Church, Forty-first-street, near Sixth-avenue, at 10½ A. M.

Rev. J. F. ELDER, at Madison-avenue Baptist Church, corner Thirty-first-street, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. STEPHEN H. TYNG, Jr., at Church of the Holy Trinity, Madison-avenue and Forty-second-street, at 7½ P. M.

Rev. Dr. WYATT, at the Church of the Incarnation, Madison-avenue and Thirty-fifth-street, at 7½ P. M.

Rev. GEO. S. CHAMBERS, at Murray Hill Presbyterian Church, Fortieth-street, near Lexington-avenue, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. W. W. PAGE, at New-York Presbyterian Church, corner Houston and Thompson streets, 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Service at French Church Du St. Esprit, West Twenty-second-street, 10½ A. M.

Rev. Dr. MCVICKER, at Church of the Holy Light, Seventh-avenue, near Thirty-fourth-street, 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. MERRILL RICHARDSON, at New-England Congregational Church, Madison-avenue and Forty-seventh-street, 10½ A. M.

Rev. A. K. SANFORD, at Greene-street M. E. Church, between Broome and Spring streets, 10½ A. M.

Rev. D. DUFFIE, at Church of St. John the Baptist, Lexington-avenue, corner Thirty-fifth-street, 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. ALEXANDER R. THOMPSON, at St. Paul's Reformed Dutch Church, Forty-third-street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. B. BACKMAN, at Seventh-street M. E. Church, Seventh-street, near Third-avenue, 10½ A. M. and 7 P. M.

Rev. MERRILL RICHARDSON, at Broadway Tabernacle, at 7½ P. M.

Rev. R. W. STRATTON, at Lexington-avenue M. E. Church, corner Fifty-second-street, 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. JOHN THOMPSON, at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Thirty-fourth-street, west of Broadway and Sixth-avenue, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. Dr. CORNWALL, at St. Matthias' Church, No. 210 West Forty-second-street, 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. Dr. PRICE, at Home Chapel, No. 29 East Twenty-ninth-street, at 10½ A. M.

Rev. J. S. SMITH, at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Seventy-fourth-street, east of Fourth-avenue, at 10½ A. M. and 3½ P. M.

Rev. W. H. PENDLETON, at West Fifty-third-street Baptist Church, Sixth and Seventh avenues, 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. T. D. ANDERSON, at First Baptist Church, Park-avenue, between Thirtieth and Fortieth streets, at 7½ A. M. and 3½ P. M.

Elder S. W. BISHOP, at Cooper Institute, Room No. 1, at 10½ A. M. and 3 P. M.

Bishop SNOW, at University, Washington-square, at 3 P. M.

Rev. JOHN Q. ADAMS, at church corner of Madison and Gouverneur streets, at 10½ A. M. and 3 P. M.

Rev. H. D. GANSE, at Association Hall, at 10½ A. M. and 3½ P. M.

Services at St. Ann's Free Church, Sixteenth-street near Fifth-avenue, at 7½ and 11½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. WILLIAM H. BOOLE, at Beekman Hill M. E. Church, East Fiftieth-street, between First and Second avenues, at 10½ A. M. and 7 P. M.

Rev. CYRUS D. FOSS, D. D., Hall Young Men's Christian Association, 7½ P. M.

Rev. Dr. FOSS, Trinity M. E. Church, West Thirty-fourth-street, near Tenth-avenue, 10½ A. M.

Rev. WM. MCALLISTER, Allen-street M. E. Church, Rivington and Delancey streets, 10½ A. M., 7½ P. M.

Rev. J. S. WILLIS, Seventeenth-street M. E. Church, between First and Second avenues, 10½ A. M., 7½ P. M.

Rev. G. F. KROTEL, D. D., Church of the Holy Trinity, Twenty-first-street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, 10½ A. M., 7½ P. M.

Rev. J. E. SEARLES, Twenty-seventh-street M. E. Church, between Second and Third avenues, 7 P. M.

Rev. ISAAC WESTCOTT, Plymouth Baptist, Fifty-first-street, between Ninth and Tenth avenues, 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. L. S. WEED, John-street M. E., between William and Nassau, 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Rev. R. S. MCARTHUR, Calvary Baptist, West Twenty-second-street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, 10½ A. M. and 3½ P. M.

Rev. JOHN W. KRAMER, Grace Chapel, Fourteenth-street, 9½ and 11 A. M., and 7½ P. M.

Rev. C. S. ROBISON, D. D., Eleventh Presbyterian Church, Fifty-fifth-street, Lexington-avenue, 11 A. M. and 7½ P. M.

Christmas in New-Jersey.

In the different cities and villages of New-Jersey the religious observances of Christmas will be held today, while the social merry-making will take place on Monday. The churches at Newark and Jersey City, Paterson, Hoboken, Elizabeth, and the other cities have during the past week been undergoing a process of decoration that has quite transformed the appearance of their interiors. In the Catholic churches the services will be most imposing. At the Newark Cathedral and St. John's Church the choicest productions of the old composers will be rehearsed to the assembled worshipers. In Trinity Church, the House of Prayer, and Grace Church (Episcopal) the music will be conducted by the most accomplished artists. In the Jersey City churches the Sunday-school celebrations will be a prominent feature of the day's services. On Monday the Oceanic Yacht Club, the *Evening Journal* employes and the Jersey City Turnverein will have their annual dinners. In the evening the Jersey City Sængerrunde give their usual Christmas ball at Cooper's Hall.

Roman Catholic Ordinations.

On Wednesday last, Archbishop MCCLOSKEY held an ordination at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, in West Fifty-ninth-street. The ceremony commenced by Rev. ISAAC HECKER calling the names of the candidates, Messrs. WILLIAM DWYER, GEORGE SEARL, FRANCIS DONAGHER and BENJAMIN D. HILL. Each answered to his name *ad sum*. The Archdeacon then presented the postulants to the Archbishop, saying, "The Holy Mother Church asks that these sub-deacons be ordained deacons." The Archbishop inquired, "Do you know them to be worthy?" and was answered, "As far as human frailty permits me to learn, I know and testify that they are worthy." Most Rev. Dr. MCCLOSKEY then addressed the candidates on the dignity to which they aspired, and urged them to the practice of those virtues which should adorn a deacon. Having clothed them with the amice, stole and dalmatic he reached the Book of Gospels, which each touched with his right hand, the Archbishop repeating the form "Receive the power to read the Gospels in the Church of God, both for the living and the dead." After the conclusion of these imposing ceremonies, the Archbishop and attendant priests, Rev. Messrs. MCNERNEY, MONROE, DALY, S. J., and Dr. BRANN, were hospitably entertained by the reverend missionary priests of St. Paul the Apostle, a community founded by Father HECKER.

Gen. WISE is in favor of sending first-class students to be educated in the universities of Germany, with the view of ultimately establishing an agricultural school in Virginia.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

BY CAPT. SAM. WHITING.
Written for the Times.

The merry Christmas time is here,
And let us now our voices raise
To Him who sends us goodly cheer,
Whose kindness well deserves our praise.
Praise Him for life, for health, for peace.
For richest mercies, undeserved;
His wondrous bounties ne'er decrease,
Though we from duty's paths have swerved.

His genial sun has clothed our fields
With earth's best products, rich and rare;
Each acre ample increase yields,
And well repays the farmer's care.
Praise Him for loving friends who meet
Today around the festive board,
For all reunions—short but sweet—
For garners with rich produce stored.

Praise Him, that He our lot has cast
In this bright land to freedom dear,
Where foul oppression cannot last,
And humble worth has nought to fear.
Praise Him, that while on Europe's shore
Carnage and battle shock are rife,
We are preserved from fearful war,
From famine, pestilence, and strife.

Oh! season hallowed by the birth
Of Him who died upon the tree,
Who deigned to share the woes of earth,
Our souls from sin and death to free;
Blest day! our hearts with joy are filled,
And sacred mem'ries warm each breast
Of friends whose voices now are stilled—
Who in the church-yard calmly rest.

But let no gloomy thoughts alloy
Today our merry Christmas cheer;
While we our goodly gifts enjoy,
Let sadness have no dwelling here!
Think of dead friends as "gone before,"
To wear a bright and spotless crown;
We'll meet them when—our conflicts o'er—
We lay life's dusty armor down.

NEW-YORK, 1870.

MISS TAMARIND'S CHRISTMAS DAY.

FOUNDED ON FACT.

It was a beautiful little white house, with lilies and roses outside it, and a green lawn sloping to the small iron gate. That is, lilies and roses in the proper season for them; now, December weather, they were replaced by laurels and other evergreens. Miss Tamarind owned the house, and lived in it with her one servant; she had not a farthing less of income than £150 a year, and of course was somebody to be looked up to amid her neighbors.

Miss Tamarind was a sociable, pleasant lady, who liked to appear to the best advantage. Her private wonder was, that nobody had ever asked her to be married. It perhaps may be said that she held some inward anxiety upon the point; which was mingled, however, with a little hope—but she'd not have spoken of it for the world. At a recent convivial dinner, given by her friends, Mr. and Mrs. Lethridge—who were, comparatively, fresh comers to the place—she had owned to thirty-one years. And that is a serious age, you know, for a single lady. It must be confessed that Miss Tamarind had rather an older air. Ill-natured Mrs. Jones, who was also dining there, whispered to the gentleman at her elbow that Jemima Tamarind looked forty if she looked a day. Miss Tamarind dressed in a young style. Her brown hair, glossy and abundant, was worn in a shower of ringlets; her blue eyes were bright. It was only the features, thin and lined, that had a look of age.

Brisk as a bee was Miss Tamarind on this Christmas Eve. It was an important epoch with her; for on the morrow she would put off the mourning that she had worn very nearly two years for her mother—from whom the house and property had descended to her. It had cost Miss Tamarind much debating thought as to what her new costume should be. The matter had been decided with care; all was now complete; and the various articles were laid out on the spare bed in readiness for the morrow's festival.

Miss Tamarind had been giving an eye to the domestic preparations,—for she was not above it,—had made the mince pies, and seen the pudding put on to boil. Her Christmas dinner would be rather solitary, as she knew. Two years ago her mother was yet living; last year she had dined out with some old friends; but this year she was invited nowhere. She supposed she must sit down in solitary state; it would not do, she was afraid, to invite one whom she would have liked to invite. People were so given to talk; and in fact, she would not herself have appeared forward or unmaidenly for the world. Perhaps no harm might be thought if she asked him to come in for a cup of tea.

The day's work was nearly over, it was growing dusk, and Miss Tamarind was dressing her parlors with holly and ivy, assisted by her maid, Bridget, a clean, steady, good sort of servant, though she did come from the Sister Isle.

"Is there any to go behind this here picture, Miss Jemima?" demanded Bridget, looking at a framed portrait opposite the fireplace.

Miss Jemima hesitated, in doubt. It was her mother's portrait; ought the likeness of the regretted dead to be framed round with gala leaves? But yes. That mother, she hoped, was in great happiness, singing the songs of the redeemed that Christ the Savior came down to rescue.

"I'll do it myself, Bridget. It shall have a beautiful little border all round the frame."

"There warn't none round him last year," remarked Bridget.

No. The loss seemed to have been so recent then.

"And where'll I put the mistletoe? A fine bunch it be, Miss Jemima."

Miss Jemima's blushes came red and hot at the question. Fortunately the evening had grown darker.

"I—don't think—I can have any mistletoe in here, Bridget," said the sensitive lady. "Keep it for your kitchen."

"Law, missus, just a little spray on't, for luck. There: I'll put him to hang out from the top o' the glass over the chimbley. Nobody won't see him there."

Miss Tamarind yielded carelessly; it was the dining-room, not the drawing-room; few visitors came into it, and her handmaiden might be right—that it would never get seen. It was many a year now since Miss Tamarind had received a kiss under the mistletoe; since any swain had attempted to offer one. She heaved a silent sigh as the thought came home to her.

"That's about all now, Miss Jemima. The room looks rare and joval."

Bridget meant jovial. Miss Tamarind assented, and swept the odd leaves into the girl's apron.

"I should like my tea at once, Bridget. It must be nearly 5 o'clock."

Bridget brought it in presently, with the candles and a toasted muffin. Miss Tamarind then put on her cloak and bonnet; for she had promised to go and help in the decorating of the church.

A little old-fashioned church, that might have been built by its architect as a curiosity, this of St. John's. Miss Tamarind found a host of ladies at work, nearly buried in evergreens. The old rector had looked in to see: his curate, Rev. Sandy Macfuseras, was doing his best to help the ladies.

A tall, meek, mild-eyed gentleman, this curate—who had gone bald at the top of his head, and had a fringe of gray hair round it. He was immensely popular in the district, chiefly because he was unmarried. So many single ladies, old and young—not to speak of the widows—had never attended St. John's Church as since he came to it, a year ago. The previous curate had a wife and seven children; and the ladies had then mostly gone to another church, saying this was draughty. Mr. Macfuseras was turned forty-four, and readily owned it. There was no chance of his marrying: his stipend was too small; and he readily owned that. But perhaps he was not believed. He shook hands with Miss Tamarind: who threw her cloak off, and began to join in the wreathing with a will. It was this gentleman that Miss Tamarind would have liked to ask to share her dinner on the morrow, but dared not.

Suppressed tittering arose on the other side the mound of green. A piece of mistletoe, as big as a spray of parsley, had disclosed its sacrilegious presence amid the holly.

"Oh, Mr. Macfuseras—such a mistake!" cried the gushing voice of Miss Juno—a young lady with a magnificent top-knot of hair. "Do look! We can't put it in, can we?"

The mistletoe was pushed forward, and Mr. Macfuseras coughed behind his hand, in some confusion. He was guileless as a child; and supposed the ladies ran about after him for the good of the parish.

"What is it?" asked Miss Tamarind, peering forward, but quite unable to see. She was naturally very near-sighted; and seemed to see less well year by year—but she didn't say so.

"What is it!—why mistletoe: so vulgar, you know!" giggled the young lady. And Miss Jemima Tamarind, between the remembrance of what Bridget had done at home, and the presence of Mr. Macfuseras beside her, felt her face turn as scarlet as the holly berries.

"You can drop it on the floor, to be cleared away with the rubbish," mildly suggested the reverend gentleman, as he worked away with his pen-knife, cutting off sprays.

By ten o'clock the work was completed, the decorations were up in the curious old church. One small gallery came perching out from the wall over the entrance and facing the chancel. This being the most conspicuous part in the edifice—outshining in that respect even the pulpit—it received a large share of the ornamentation.

The crowd of ladies turned toward the town; they all happened to live that way. Miss Tamarind had to go in the direction of the outskirts. As she was alone, Mr. Macfuseras offered to attend her—he could not well do less. The rest watched them off: she on the pavement, he beyond the gutter in the native retirement of his manners.

"Horrid sly cat, that old Tamarind is!" observed Miss Juno. "I'm sure we could have done quite well without her help."

It was a beautiful night, the stars glittering like diamonds in the frosty sky. Arrived at Miss Tamarind's gate, the clergyman shook hands, and she thanked him for his politeness in walking with her. They were in the habit of meeting sometimes at the Lethridges, to whom he was distantly related, and therefore were on friendly terms.

"You dine out to-morrow, of course?" said Miss Tamarind. "But—I was thinking—if you would honor my poor little tea-table afterward, with your presence, Mr. Macfuseras—that is, should you not be better engaged—" She stopped in confusion.

"Thank you, I'll come with pleasure if I can get away."

Miss Tamarind eat her supper, and sat before the fire musing, when Bridget had taken the tray away. Her home seemed very lonely! all by herself at this festal time, when other families met to make merry! She could not help picturing how happy it might be if somebody came to join her—say St. John's curate, for instance. The poor lady had grown to like him rather more than was good for her peace. There was not a man in the wide world she esteemed and reverenced so much as he. She became lost in an imaginary vista of the future, so improbable, and yet so charming, that when Bridget brought in the bed-candle, she started up as if the house had been on fire.

Miss Tamarind had an enchanting dream that night. She thought she was in a bower, or arbour, made of natural flowers of many colors, all bright and beautiful to look upon. As she sat there dressed as a princess, a soft white light arose, softer yet brighter than any yet seen on earth; many people were bowing before her in homage, and amid them, more distinct than any, she saw Mr. Macfuseras. Never had she experienced so delightful a sensation; her whole heart seemed to desire nothing further: it was the acme of bliss.

"My goodness, what a sweet dream!" thought Miss Tamarind when she awoke. "What a pity it is that dreams never come true!"

On the breakfast table lay a parcel and a letter, that the post had brought from London. The parcel contained a beautiful prayer-book of dark blue morocco with double clasps of silver; the letter a hope that she would accept the book and all good wishes with it.

"How kind it is of them to remember me!" thought Miss Tamarind, the grateful tears gathering in her eyes. "I am glad they have chosen a big one with large print! My old book was getting very shabby."

Who so proud, that Christmas Day, as Miss Tamarind, when she turned out of her house in all the glory of her new attire! An emerald-green satin gown that glistened in the sun, a jacket garnished with white fur; and a resplendent white bonnet that had a top-knot of carnations, and drooping tassels of gold. Bridget caught up her breath when she came forward to open the street door, and backed against the wall instead of doing it.

"My stars and smithereens, Miss Jemima! Faix, and the sun today never'll be half as lovely as you."

"Now, Bridget, you are sure you can manage the stuffing for the turkey?" questioned Miss Jemima, making believe not to care for the adulation, though it was in truth as the veriest incense to her heart. "You can do it well, you know, if you will."

"Trust me, missis—and ain't it for the gala dinner o' this blessed day!" was the girl's answer. "Oh, but that gownd's just a rainbow, ma'am!"

What with guarding the gown from contact with the streets, and what with the new prayer-book and a white muff, Miss Tamarind had her hands full as she sailed down the road. Opposite Mr. Lethridge's house she saw Master Richard, a gentleman of ten, mounted on the spikes of the iron gates.

"Why, Dick, you should not be doing that on Christmas Day," reproved Miss Tamarind. "Are your papa and mamma gone to church yet?"

"Pa and ma's not going," responded Dick, jumping down. "Pa's ill."

Miss Tamarind was early, and thought she would go in and see what was the matter. Dick marshaled her into the drawing-room, while he called his mother. She sat down by the round table, putting her prayer-book upon it.

It was only a bilious attack, Mrs. Lethridge said; she hoped her husband would be up for dinner. One of the little ones was also not well, and she meant to remain at home herself.

"See what a beautiful present I have had," said Miss Tamarind, showing the prayer-book. "Dick, my dear, I wish you'd not jump on and off the back of my chair."

"Dick's worse than ever," cried Mrs. Lethridge, after she had returned the book to the table. "He's the most troublesome boy ever born. I dare not let him go to church without me."

Miss Tamarind, in her good nature, had a great mind to offer to take Dick herself. But she dared not. He would be pitching the hymn-books on the people's heads below—or something else as dreadful.

"Where do you dine today, Jemima?" asked Mrs. Lethridge.

"At home."

"At home!—alone! Dear me, you had better come to us. We shall be by ourselves, except for the curate—he's coming. Come in as soon as you like in the afternoon, my dear, and stay to dinner."

Miss Tamarind's heart and cheeks alike glowed, as she accepted the invitation. So she should eat her Christmas fare with Rev. Sandy, after all. She rose to go.

"What a lovely color that dress is—and how well the skirt hangs!" cried Mrs. Lethridge. "Turn round, Jemima."

Nothing loth, Miss Tamarind submitted to be turned about and admired. Then, catching up her prayer-book, and pushing it into her muff, she ran home to tell Bridget not to cook the turkey. Altogether, what with one delay and another, the bells had ceased ringing when Miss Tamarind reached St. John's Church.

At any other time she would have been vexed; she did not much mind it now. Her head was full of the impression she was going to make. Miss Tamarind shared the front seat of the odd little gallery with the Lethridge family, and she had it all to herself that day. Perched aloft in that projecting and most conspicuous pew, it would almost seem at times to Miss Tamarind that she was nearly nose to knees with the parson in front of her—whether it might happen to be the rector or the curate. The pulpit, reading-desk and clerk's seat were all in one, a kind of upright light-house, the preacher's place at the top, the reader's in the middle, the clerk's at foot. It stood right in the centre before the little chancel.

The Reverend Sandy Macfuseras had begun the prayers when she glided into her pew, her green gown rustling, the gold tassels in her head-gear fluttering. She caught a glimpse of his clean starched surplice and his bald head with its fringe of gray hair, as she knelt down. The congregation were just kneeling down then, and so she remained on her knees, keeping quite quiet. She wished she had not been late; the green gown and the rest of the attire made her very conscious; the sun was shining in with a dazzling light. In spite of herself and her wish to be reverent, her thoughts went roaming away—as do those of the very best of us. The dream came into her mind—came with a rush of perplexity. Why did not this—this—almost seem like its realization? What, but a bower, could this little front pew be compared to, with the graceful wreaths of evergreens looped round its front, and the holly and ivy entwined about its corner pillars? Was not she—she and her finery—receiving the homage of the congregation beneath? Certainly several of them were gazing aloft. Glancing up for a brief moment, Miss Tamarind's eye caught that of Rev. Mr. Macfuseras.

It was time to stand up again. Miss Tamarind rose with the rest. Indubitably, the whole church looked up now, for aught so startlingly fine had not been seen in the gallery for many a Sunday. As the curate began "Glory be to the Father," Miss Tamarind slowly took her prayer-book out of her muff.

At her full height stood she, in all the pride of her conspicuous position. She felt that she must be looking very beautiful—as a bright picture amid the setting of holly branches. It might have been called the one culminating point of Miss Tamarind's public life; no Lord Mayor, riding up Cheapside to Westminster, his mace and sword-bearer stuck on either side of him, to the admiration of the populace, was ever more puffed-out with vain-glory than she. Generally speaking, Miss Tamarind did her best to confine her mind to divine service, and take profit from it. Today was altogether an exception. Even the little charity boys, over whom the schoolmaster kept stern ward with a long, white wand had all their heads turned on her. The Reverend Sandy Macfuseras took another glance out of his meek eyes toward the gallery. No wonder Miss Tamarind's fingers, encased in delicate grey gloves, bungled somewhat over the clasp of the prayer-book. It would not come undone. A desperate pull gave she, just as the congregation began their response "As it was in the beginning." Miss Tamarind——

What on earth was it? The prayer-book had suddenly burst into a crash of music, and Miss Tamarind dropped it on the crimson cushion before her; the congregation stopped short in their response; the Reverend Mr. Macfuseras opened his mouth in consternation. "The Blue-bells of Scotland" was the air, regaling scandalized ears in the sacred edifice.

It was too true. There lay the prayer-book—or what Miss Tamarind had taken for her prayer-book—grinding away louder than any street-organ. The unhappy lady, standing like a statue struck into stone, bent her near-sighted eyes on the thing she did not dare to touch with her fingers. By slow degrees the solution of the mystery dawned upon her. This was not a prayer-book at all, but a musical-box; and she had set it going by pulling what she had thought was the clasp. She must have taken it up by mistake from Mrs. Lethridge's table.

"Ching, ching, ching; ding, ding, ding," went the thing, very loud and clear, every note distinct; the congregation might have followed on, in their minds, with the words. One excited lad did—rather too loud—as the second verse was plunged into. "In what clothes, in what clothes is your Highland laddie clad?" And down came the white wand on his head in a succession of raps.

Poor Miss Tamarind was in a cold perspiration. Her face had turned deadly white. Could she have sunk beneath the floor forever through some friendly trap-door, after the manner of the London pantomimes, it had been a blessed boon. She'd have given the whole of her next year's income, for an air-balloon to come and bear her aloft by the roof.

No such luck. She stood in her agony, and the sacrilegious music went on. The service was at a standstill; the congregation had their faces turned upward. Suddenly, a happy idea seized Miss Tamarind: that, as she had set it going by pulling at the silver knob, or small button, so she might stop it by pushing it back again.

But which knob was it? At a desperate hazard, she pushed one of them. The tune died away. But only for a moment. With a loud click, it broke out again, ten times more dreadful than before.

For "The Blue-Bells of Scotland" is a decent air, make the worst of it. *This* was a fast, zig-zag, disreputable jig, that Miss Tamarind had danced to scores of times in her young days: one known by a most disreputable name, "The Devil among the Tailors." In the modesty of her blooming youth, Miss Jemima had used to abbreviate the obnoxious name to The "D." among the Tailors.

The D. was racing along at railroad speed. Mr. Macfuseras groaned audibly; the boys grinned; the congregation frowned; the old rector at the communion table made a movement with his hand, as much as to order the wicked interruption to stop. But who could stop those miserable sounds, once they were set going? Miss Tamarind verily believed the D. had left the tailors and got into the box.

Poor Miss Tamarind! Cold water ran down her back: her cheeks and lips grew whiter. A question passed through her mind—which was the worst: to turn tail and make her escape by the stairs; or to stand it out? But she could never go, and leave the box behind, and to carry the music with her was quite beyond her philosophy. The white stick kept falling upon the boys' heads without any cessation; the sunshine glittered; the up-turned faces began to look like a sea of flame. A gentleman, learned in musical-boxes, came out of his pew near the pulpit and stalked down the aisle, halting in front of the balcony and Miss Tamarind.

"Press the middle button, ma'am. May-be that'll do it."

The audible whisper came distinctly up to her. She did as she was bid: pressing the "button" with the full force of her trembling fingers. But no. The tune only changed. The D. subsided into "Drops of Brandy." Drops of Brandy!

On it sped. There seemed nothing for it but to let the horrible instrument play itself out. Most unquestionably if the D. had not got into it, something else had. Miss Tamarind prayed to lose consciousness in a fainting fit. But she did not.

The feet of all the boys were shuffling—in spite of the hard blows of the admonishing white stick. They thought they were at a dance. Miss Juno turned up her little nose with a condemning sneer. The Reverend Sandy Macfuseras hid his face in his surplice. The light-minded amid the congregation, almost began to nod their heads to the air. Had it only been a suitable air, the clergy might not have felt it so cruelly; such, for instance, as the Old Hundredth Psalm. But—Drops of Brandy! No: there was nothing for it but to let it have its fling.

Miss Tamarind was wiping her cold damp face for the fiftieth time, when the box died away into silence. The service proceeded then: not perhaps with quite the solemnity that it ought to have done, owing to the best part of the congregation turning their eyes upward perpetually, in the expectation that the box might break out again. How Miss Tamarind sat it out, she does not know unto this day.

She had intended to remain for the second service. How could she now? How attain to the necessary calm of mind for it? She humbly took her departure after the sermon; the dreadful box hidden under her jacket. Home, she crept, the back way, humiliated to despair. Her green gown had lost its lustre; she could have flung the bonnet into the first pool. In truth, the blow had been very bitter; the future comfort of her life seemed not to be worth a day's purchase.

"Go down to Mrs. Lethridge's, Bridget," she said. "Tell her I shall not be able to dine with them today, for I've got a headache come on. Give her this box; and ask for my prayer-book."

"Is it the turkey then that I'll be cooking, after all?" questioned Bridget.

"Oh, cook anything; do what you like," replied her unhappy mistress.

Was it a judgment upon her, she kept asking herself, as she sat over her lonely fire in the growing dusk of the afternoon, the grass green silk put off, and her old black one on. How dared she go to church on Christmas morning, rapt in the thoughts of her finery, and in nothing else? Never again as long as she lived could she be guilty of it; for the check would serve her for life.

It had been lonely for her lately: and her tears dropped hot and thick, as the fact suggested itself that the future would be far more so. After this awful exhibition that she had caused in the church, neither of its ministers would notice her again. The Reverend Sandy Macfuseras would not be likely to so much as take off his hat to her from the opposite side of the street. And she knew she could have made him so happy! If that faintly-cherished hope of hers had ever come to anything she would have worn out her life for his comfort. Well—it was over. She must put up with her trial; and she hoped God would forgive her in time, and bless her with a grain of peace.

She could not eat any dinner. The turkey was cooked to a turn, but every mouthful seemed to choke her. Bridget resentfully demanded whether the stuffing was not right, or what else was the matter with it.

"My head aches so badly," was her excusing answer—and she dared not lift her eyes, lest their redness should be seen. "You shall take a nice bit of it to that poor bed-ridden woman close by, Bridget; and a mince-pie."

So the dinner, wanting an eater, was soon cleared away, and Miss Tamarind sat at the fire again. That her beautiful dream should have had this ending! Her mother's picture smiled down upon her; and she felt in her heart to wish that she, too, was in heaven. It might not be so very long first; her last birthday had told forty-two years. Alone with herself and her sorrow, she could own to the fact.

"The Riverence Sandwich Macfisterus," announced Bridget, flinging open the door.

Choking back the tears, hiding her swollen eyes as she best could, Miss Tamarind welcomed him in the best way that humiliation had left possible to her. She stirred the fire into a blaze, and gave him the easiest arm-chair.

"I fear I am a little early," said the clergyman, his manner as meek, his voice as kind as ever. "But things were at sixes and sevens at the Lethridges, and I thought perhaps they would as soon I left as not."

"What was the matter?"

"His bilious attack is worse this afternoon and he is in bed. He only got out of it to flog young Dick."

"To flog young Dick!" repeated Miss Tamarind. "Oh, dear!"

"It was Dick who took away your prayer-book this morning and substituted the musical box in its place. He is always in some mischief. To do the boy justice, I don't believe he had any idea of causing such results. Mr. Lethridge, however, said a flogging would do him good, and so administered it. I left Dick howling."

"I'm sure I'm very much indebted to you for having come here," said the poor lady. "I—thought—that—you would never take any notice of me again."

"Good gracious!" cried the clergyman, in dismay. Why, I—I came, Miss Tamarind—to—to—"

"To what?" she said, innocently, thinking to help him out of his perplexity.

"The fact is, I have had a Christmas-box this morning, in the shape of a letter from my rector," he resumed, picking up some courage. "He has raised my stipend to a hundred and fifty, Miss Tamarind; and I hoped that—perhaps—you would not be offended at my asking you to share it. I couldn't speak while I had so little."

Miss Tamarind stared at him with all her eyes, while she took in the sense of the amazing news. And then she flung up her hands, beseechingly, and burst into tears and tears.

"I don't deserve it, she sobbed. "But it—I—have got a hundred and fifty, too—and the house. That will be three hundred; and oh! I will do my very best."

"I have liked you always," he whispered, as he (this ought to be put in brackets of concealment) kissed her. Kissed her, middle-aged clergyman though he was. Had Bridget been able to see in, just then, she would have said her piece of mistletoe had not been hung up there for nothing.

And so, in spite of the mishap, Miss Tamarind's Christmas Day had a happy ending.—*The Argosy.*

THE FIRST BRIDGE ACROSS THE THAMES.—The exact period at which the first bridge across the Thames, uniting London and Southwark, was erected "no man knoweth." It must have been at a very early period of our history. Such a bridge, we know, is mentioned as existing in the times of ETHELRED, for in the laws of that august potentate is specified the enforcement of a toll or tax upon all vessels coming to Billingsgate, or *ad Pontem*. Thus a bridge clearly existed in the days of ETHELRED. WILLIAM of Malmsbury, also, a very early authority, makes mention of "this bridge at London." We think it could not have been earlier than A. D. 993, for in that year there can be no doubt that UNLAF the Dane "sailed up the river as far as Stains," as say the Saxon chronicles, and so, of course, at that period there could have been no bridge to oppose his progress; and we are sure that it was not later than A. D. 1016, for the same authority declares that at that date CANUTE the Great, King of Denmark, in besieging London, found the bridge a great obstacle, it being no doubt strongly fortified. His ingenuity, however, enabled him to hit upon an expedient. He cut a vast ditch on the south side of the Thames at Rotherhithe, which he continued, at a distance from the bridge, in the form of a semicircle, until it opened into the river west of the bridge. Through this he drew his ships, and effectually completed the blockade of the city. Of course we are not bound to believe this implicitly, but, at least, so say the Saxon chroniclers; and if we can't give them credence, we are naturally led to inquire, "What, and whom, can we believe?" It is only fair, however, toward the Saxon chroniclers to admit this much, that, within the last two or three centuries, antiquaries have discovered very many remains of embankments, and that kind of thing, throughout the whole course of the supposed canal, and they one and all affirm that, if these remains are not the evidences and proofs of the canal of CANUTE the Great, why, then they don't know what they are!—*Temple Bar.*

FESTAL ANNIVERSARIES.—Home festivals and festal anniversaries—birth-days, wedding-days, &c.—it is wise and well to have and to observe such household holidays. Never be too busy, say I to the wisest parents, to give up a day now and then to the youngsters; especially, to become the viziers and purveyors of pleasure for the young caliphs on their birth-days. I will not bring in here the selfish argument that it is well for yourself (however this be also true) to get the dust of your office knocked off you, or the shrilling midges and gnats of little cares brushed away from your ears for a clear day now and then. But, for the sake of the man or woman that you are modeling, it is well to unbend and be genial at times, and to try to remember, however you have grown out of much of the old feeling, that you were "children once," that pudding was more than meat to you, and sugar-plums than guineas, and that the most important part of all the garden to your mind used to be the little corner that yourself had planted with only laughing flowers. Keep what TENNYSON calls the 'child's heart within the man's.' It is not well to let a great gulf grow between your present grave years and the merry days when you were young, for how can we over-value the advantage of simple home-pleasures and little home-treats? how over-rate the importance of making home attractive and happy, and cultivating home-tastes? A happy home, and consideration for the youngsters: if you leave these out of sight in your system—or want of system—of home-training, your unwisdom, believe me, is enormous, your error probably irreparable. Next to religion (and home-duties and home-training may be said to be in a sense the religion of a child) there is, for the young, no safe-guard so secure, no hold so powerful, as the love of home. A kindly sympathy and mutual understanding between parent and child;—what words can exaggerate its advantage? what exertion is too great to attain it? what pains shall be grudged to keep it up? Interweave their ways, their interests, their pursuits, their pleasures and amusements, as much as possible with the idea of home; with sympathies and associations from a loving and appreciative home-circle. Shun all sarcasm, sneers and snubbing; if innocent and not unwholesome, interest yourself even in the little matters that are brought for your sympathy. Above all, dread and shun to become a wet blanket. Be terrified if you see the bright natural gaiety fade when you come in, or the merry voices sink into a hush. Instantly devise some little treat or excursion, and throw yourself into it heartily, not anxiously, if you can help it. Watch yourself; for be sure, in such a case, you have begun to get absent, reserved, glum, unnoticing, disagreeable; and if so, the young hand is growing loose in yours; and unless you are warned, who knows how soon it may be slipped quite away, and seek the warmer grasp of some other companion and guide? And of the quality and character of that guide you cannot make sure.

Home, yes; we all gather about home and home thoughts at Christmas time; we who have learned to love home, and to find in it our most prized loves and enjoyments. Two homes there may seem to be in each mature life—the home of our own childhood and the home of our children's childhood. For Christmas specially belongs to children, and is well followed, almost directly, by the Feast of the Holy Innocents. It was as children that we most of all enjoyed Christmas—as little children, and as boys and girls home from school. Festal anniversaries are, then, well and wholesome to observe, and gaps should be left or compelled for them, even in the busiest lives. So WORDSWORTH agrees:

> "Yes, they can make, who fail to find,
> Short leisure even in busiest days.
> Moments to cast a look behind,
> And profit by those kindly rays
> That through the clouds do sometimes steal,
> And all the far-off past reveal."

—*English Society.*

RECOLLECTIONS OF THACKERAY.

BY HIS COUSIN.

An American lady, an authoress, of Roman Catholic opinions, told me she was once rather offended with THACKERAY, because she was "snubbed" (that was her expression) by the satirist, when she informed him that she went to the "oratory" at Brompton—

"Oh! you go to that *shop*, do you?"

That was what he thought of Popery. I suspect that THACKERAY was a sort of Christian skeptic, like CARLYLE. On the subject of religion, however, he was always reverential, and when we were speaking of the late W. J. FOX and his talents, (which THACKERAY confessed,) he remarked to me, "He has a such a way of patronizing God Almighty!"

He always spoke with the profoundest veneration for Christ; and I fancy that, latterly, he was of Unitarian, (that is, modern Unitarian,) views in theology. He once remarked to me, that he considered skepticism "a very humble state of mind." It may be so, but it is painful. Perhaps there is nothing more harrowing than incessant doubt.

The genius of THACKERAY was not remarkable to outside observers. He kept a reserve of force. I don't think he cared much for argument. Men of inferior capacity have possessed far more reasoning power. But he saw far at once—saw to the heart of a mystery—as genius does. When he mentioned DICKENS to me, I said I did not fancy he was a deep thinker.

No; but he has a clear and a bright-eyed intelligence, which is better than philosophy," he said.

I rejoined that I thought he a little overrated DICKENS.

"I think he is equal to FIELDING and SMOLLETT—at any rate, to SMOLLETT. He is not a scholar as FIELDING was," he replied.

He told me he thought "DICKENS wrote the most charming extravaganza in the world," which seems to me a fine and a just criticism. I asked him what writer of all living authors he most admired.

"MACAULAY is about the most brilliant," was the answer. No doubt he was captivated by Lord MACAULAY'S style, but I was surprised that he cared for him so much.

THACKERAY did not like to be always discussing politics or grave subjects, and assured me that it was quite "refreshing" to escape to his wife sometimes—who was not political. He said, with a sigh to me, after she became hopelessly insane—

"Poor thing! I was as happy as the day was long with her."

It looked curious to see THACKERAY with his wife, for he was six feet three, and she was below the middle height; so that she could barely reach his arm. Talking of his stature, he remarked to a friend of his—

"After six feet, it all runs to seed."

I once saw him with HIGGINS, (who, I believe, was six feet seven,) and it was odd to see him almost dwarfed by the side of "Jacob Omnium."

An acquaintance of mine met THACKERAY one day after his return from America, and asked him what he thought of the Republicans there—for he imagined that the famous novelist was a Democrat also.

"I shall record my opinions on the Americans," answered THACKERAY, "in the book that I don't mean to write."—*Cassell's Magazine.*

PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE OF FASHION.—In *Le Follet's* "Fashions for December" there is a gleam of reason resembling the faint sunlight which now and then breaks through the masses of clouds that mantle and muffle the sky these dark mornings:

"Elderly ladies can never appropriate toilets suitable only to youth without adding to their age, to a degree of which it would be almost impossible to convince them; and *vice versa*, young unmarried ladies, dressed in matronly robes and ornaments, lose the charm of elegant simplicity so becoming to them, and show a lamentable ignorance of the first and most immutable canon of good taste—suitability."

There is an intelligence in this remark really amounting to common sense, and there is a feeling of art quite sufficiently high to discern at least one of its rudimentary principles. We only hope that the above-quoted passage from the *Follet* is not very much above the comprehension of most of its readers.—*Punch.*

THE HOSPITAL AT DARMSTADT.—Fresh from the scenes at Spicheren and Saarbrück, a walk through the Darmstadt hospital was almost exhilarating. There seemed good hope for the worst of the sufferers, and many of them had clearly turned the corner, and were steadily on their way up-hill. They smoked with placid satisfaction, they read with absorbed attention, and journals and novels were especially in demand. It is to be regretted we in England can do so little to supply that particular want, for it would be hard to overestimate the pleasure that might be conveyed in a box of light literature. But the pleasantest sight of all was the way the saddest faces would brighten up as the Princess ALICE stopped to say a few kind words and ask a question or two—not mere questions of course. Indefatigable in her attendance, she keeps herself personally informed of each serious case, and from day to day anxiously watches the progress of her patients. Indeed, they owe her far more than the kindness and generosity which is nearly universal in Germany. Long before this war broke out, her care had organized a corps of educated nurses; and when the sanguinary battles created an exceptional demand for their services, she had a *cadre* of skilled attendants, which expanded immediately into an efficient force. The Alice-Frauenverein has been rendering invaluable services; and it is no wonder that, in spite of great local liberality, its funds should be well-nigh drained. The charitable who desire to make sure that their contributions will be promptly expended to the best advantage, and impartially distributed between the wounded of the two nations, can scarcely do better than intrust them to the Committee of the Alice-Frauenverein. They will have the satisfaction of knowing every thing is done under the personal superintendence of an English woman, for her Royal Highness has given up to the work a suite of her own apartments in the Palace, and lets no day pass without a long visit to the hospital.—*On the Trail of the War, Alexander Innes Shand.*

HYDROPATHY.—This word, and electropathy, and all of the same sort, should also be scouted out of sight and hearing. They are absolutely without meaning, and, in their composition, are fine examples of pretentious ignorance. HAHNEMANN called the system of medicine which he advocated, homeopathy, because its method was to cure by the use of medicines which would give a like (*omoios*) disease or suffering (*pathos*.) The older system was naturally called by him, (it was never before so called by its practicers,) allopathy, because it worked by medicines which set up an action counter to, different from (*allos*,) the disease. These are good technical Greek derivatives. And by just as much as they are good and reasonable, are hydropathy and electropathy bad and foolish. Why should water-cure be called water-disease? why electric-cure, electric-disease? The absurdity of these words is shown by translating them. They are plainly sprung from the desire of those who practice the water-cure and the electric-cure to be reckoned with the legitimate pathies. And the "hydropathists" and "electropathists" are not alone. I saw once, before a little shop with some herbs in the window, a sign which ran thus: "Indian Opathist." I was puzzled for a moment to divine what an opathist might be. But, of course, I saw in the next moment that the vender of the herbs in the little shop, thinking that his practice had as good a right as any other to a big name, and deceived by the accent which some persons give to homeopathy and allopathy, had called his practice Indian-Opathy, and himself an Indian-Opathist. He was not one whit more absurd than the self-styled "hydropathist" and "electropathist."—*Words and Their Uses, by R. Grant White.*

CHRISTMAS.

From the London Daily Telegraph.

Far back in time but near by familiarity, seems that epoch—that point which divides the past into ancient and modern. As long ago as stretched the ages of Assyrian and Egyptian dynasties—twice as long as the rule of Rome—and still the story is as "household" to us as the thing which happened yesterday. Who cannot conjure up, at a word, its scenes? Jerusalem; Nazareth; the long file of camels striding over the dark desert by night, toward that solitary star glittering so suddenly and with such mystery, to beckon their swarthy lords from the Orient hills! Who has not made from all the old and new masters his own picture of the wayside inn at Bethlehem? The crowding pilgrims, the patient cattle, the traffic, the dust, the tumult; and in the midst of all the Christ and his Hebrew mother! And how quietly we receive, on the strength of a story made for all times and peoples, "the Adoration of the Wise Men." We never wonder to find those three grave and reverend seniors clad in early Italian or mediæval costume, presenting, on bended knee—a salutation unknown to the East—jewels and confections of the manufacture of the "Street of the Jewelers" at Florence, or the Dom Platz of Cologne. What if, under porticoes which the Romans only built, horses are waiting, which the Magi would not ride; and the Madonna smiles upon the wistful travelers in a Greek "peplus," her features and the features of her Divine child profoundly European? What of all this? We are no more disconcerted than to know that the three wise men died and were buried at Aix-la-Chapelle. We listen to the tale like children, who hear an undermeaning in every word of their narrator's story. Beyond and behind it all is that eternal revelation, that ineffable message of love, which is the heart and soul of the religion which sprang from the manger and blossomed on the cross. World's wisdom falters in presence of that truth which the best of us can only half comprehend. Tell it as ye will, Signori the painters! tell it as ye list, Monsignori the preachers! At this season of Christmas we shall listen, as to our children who say that on the Christmas Eve the dark-eyed oxen talk together in the stall, and the bird who stained his breast red with chirping on the cross sings all the night long in the fir thicket. What might not be, indeed, in picture or reality, on the anniversary of the night when the shepherds tended their flocks by Jordan—when they heard, or seemed to hear, out of heaven, that voice which frighted Pan from his Greek forests and Apollo from his oracles? "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Divine ambassage!—august and awful utterance!—sounding down to all times and languages the diapason of the harmony of heaven and earth!

Two thousand years or so agone, too! and war as much in fashion now as when TITUS sowed salt on the foundation of the Temple. Some Christmas seasons are noted for this occurrence, and some for that. There are old men, rheumatically given, who can recall Winter after Winter for its varying degrees of frost. In such a year, Spring weather and premature apple-blossoms; in such another year all fetters on land and water, and oxen roasting whole upon the silent rivers. But 1861 will be most easily remembered. A great grief and a great doubt is to be always associated with its numerals. When the hale among us are gray, and the gray are in their peaceful graves, it will be said: "At that Christmas the people buried the noble Consort of the Queen, and waited over their festal cheer to know if America would be at war with them or at peace." On the very season when good will descended upon earth the two great peoples of the Christian name prepare for war; and war between them will be no play of children, but the struggle of enemies whose nerves and sinews are of iron—whose blood must flow like water before it makes them weak enough to yield. Two thousand years ago those shepherds heard that song, known for Divine to them and to us, as soon as uttered and transmitted. And since then ever so many wars! History, indeed, is overpowered with them, and shuffles Minerva altogether out of her page, to make room for Mars. Only in our own time some half-dozen good imperial *duella* have been begun and ended; and one is now pending, which may eclipse them all in horror and in evil consequences. "Better war than peace," sings, indeed the Laureate and sometimes a body corporate, overfed with luxury and self-conceit, has needed the regimen of blood-letting. It needs it now, perhaps; palpably, we should say, in the case of our random and right-defying kinsman. But meanwhile two thousand years have passed, with all its sowing of good seed, partly talked of, and partly got under ground—and out of all this spiritual cultivation no blossom so frequent as that "blood-red blossom of war!"

We have a skeleton sermon which we should like to bring to notice. It is a little too practical for the age—a thought, perhaps, too just and charitable—and it denounces some fashionable peccadilloes in a rather downright way. But, in spite of some passages which have got to be miswritten in it, its matter is Divine, and its manner is commanding. It contains, besides, a prayer that all can pray—a litany not longer than the patience of a sleepy child; it has a word for the Pharisees, who judge hurried judgments; for the Sadducees, who deny the resurrection of hope to the hopeless; for a widowed Queen, also, and a wistful country. It will supply a rebuke to the wild avarice of the age, which stumbles over justice and honor in the race to be rich, and does not note how God can clothe the lily and take thought of the falling sparrow. Beyond and above all, it is the absolute mission of Him whom the angels proclaimed to the herdsmen. It is the authentic proclamation which was only then and there announced. It is Christianity; not ours, nor Dr. CUMMING'S, nor Bishop WILBERFORCE'S, nor the Pope's, nor Father PASSAGLIA'S, but simply Christ's. Rightly preached, it would cut at the tap-root of war, for in the heart of it is the expansion of the chorus of the angelic host, the corollary of peace on earth set down in Saxon words, "I say unto you, forgive your enemies." Such is the sublime maxim which it inculcates. We have never come yet within real ear-shot of this doctrine; we are not, perhaps, in the road to it at all. What if, meditating on this and abandoning dry doctrine, our teachers were to try this morality pure and simple?—what if polemics were a little disused, and ethics a little more adopted, during 1862? At this particular Yule-tide, if any reverend preacher will take a text from his secular brothers, we commend to him, for bran-new and edifying study, that sermon known as the "Sermon on the Mount."

SOUTH AFRICAN DIAMONDS.—That South Africa, from Cape Town to the Trans Vaal, is now diamond-mad, is an indisputable fact. We feel it, see it, and are told of it. From morning till night there seems to be but one topic of conversation—diamonds! From night till morning busy fingers are "setting up" scraps of information gained during the day about—diamonds! Diamond-seeking appears like *rouge et noir* and other games of chance; when winning, it seems a pity to leave off while luck is with us; and when losing, it is not easy to stop without that "really last time" of trying to regain wasted time and money, which almost invariably adds to our already too heavy losses. As an example of the exception which proves the rule, we were shown one man who had worked over a month and found nothing. Disappointed, tired and heart-sick, he determined, after having bewailed for some time his bad luck, to have "a last try," and almost immediately found two diamonds, one of which, to provide for his immediate wants, he sold for £35, but retained the larger of the two, which was valued at over twice that amount, and recommenced, as he termed it, all afresh. Another party, again, turned up two large diamonds immediately after their arrival, and in their first cradle-ful of earth; but although that is over a month ago, their hearts have not been gladdened with the sight of a precious stone since; while a third more numerous and now wealthy party was early in the field, and worked hard and late without any returns, when of a sudden luck seemed to change, and they have done well ever since. One gentleman has communicated to the house of business by which he is employed, and was specially sent to Africa, that the entire country through which the Vaal River runs is "rich in minerals," and that "gold quartz is abundant, running in layers or strata between volcanic lava and a granite formation." Another points out a tract of country as the "richest diamond-bed known;" while quicksilver is stated as "obtainable in large quantities," and copper is said to be procurable in "any quantity." Surely a bright day is in store for South Africa.—*Belgravia.*

JUDICIAL COMBAT.—On the morning of the combat the judge and his attendants were in their places betimes. A strong body of men-at-arms was drawn up between the palisades; the heralds, in their gay tabards, paraded the lists; the "master of high works" (hangman) and his crew stood by the gibbet, and a priest in full canonicals dressed his altar with crucifix, relics, &c., and then took post beside it. The constable and his guards kept the eastern wicket, and the marshal and his guards the western. Both officers were armed with headless spears, to be used, if necessary, in parting the duellists. With these exceptions, no weapons save those to be employed in fight were permitted within the inclosure. The constable, the marshal, and their followers, however, were fully clad in mail. As to the spectators,—need we dilate on the multitudes that surged round the barriers, or crowded the trees and housetops in the vicinity? We have seen how people could throng in our own days to a prize fight, or a hanging, and we may conceive how a ruder generation would rush and crush to an exhibition, which united and intensified all the fierce attractions of the prize fight and the hanging.

The first proceeding of the day was the arrest of the sureties. Then the herald's trumpet rolled a pin-drop silence through the crowd. The usual proclamation followed: "Let none be armed or approach within four feet of the palisades, on pain of death and forfeiture; let none be mounted on pain of losing his horse if a gentleman, or his ears if a rascal; let all seat them on the ground until the close of the combat; and he who rises, shouts, speaks, or makes a sign, shall lose a hand. The appellant was next summoned three times by sound of trumpet, and thrice by name. On the third summons he issued from his lodgings attended by his friends, and armed as he meant to fight. No error or omission of equipment could afterward be rectified. He could not even close his visor if he appeared with it open. On his way to the lists he prayed and signed the cross at every step; or, better still, paid his devotions to the crucifix, or the picture of a favorite saint, which he held in both hands. At the eastern gate of the lists he was received by the constable, with the demand: "Who art thou, and wherefore comest thou armed to the door of these lists?" The champion replied, stating his name, his quality, the main points of his cause, and his purpose. The constable then raised his visor and scrutinized his features, and having thus made sure of his identity, conducted him to his pavilion. Precisely the same form was gone through between the marshal and the defendant. Their weapons were next examined. These were required to be perfectly equal, with one small exception—the challenger might fight with a shorter sword than the challenged, with the permission of the latter. The champions were afterward searched for secret armor or amulets. In some places the detection of such things at once lost the bearer his cause; in others they were merely removed; and in others again the parties took solemn oath that they carried nothing of the kind, and the search was dispensed with. After the search the defendant retired to his pavilion, and the appellant was led by the constable and placed on his knees before the altar. This was a part of the ceremony that greatly interested the spectators. As the knights bore them in it, as they were firm or faltered, so the public formed their opinion of their guilt or innocence, and consequently the approaching catastrophe. The priest pointed to the crucifix and said solemnly: "Sir cavalier, esquire, or lord of such place, behold here the memorial of our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ, who gave his precious body to death for us! Ask His mercy, who is Judge Supreme, that He aid you now according to the justice of your cause. And think you well on the vows you have made; otherwise, your estate, your life, your honor and your immortal soul are all in peril." The priest having closed his invocation, the constable grasped the appellant's hands, and placing the right on the crucifix and the left on the altar exclaimed: "Such a one, tell me, is your cause just?" To this the appellant give a suitable reply—repeating after the constable the following oath: "I M., of N., appellant, do swear by the memory of the passion of our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, by the Holy Evangelists and these Holy Relics, by the faith of a true Christian, and the holy baptism which I have received from God, and by my hopes of heaven and my fears of hell, that I have a good and just quarrel against so and so, the which I shall prove this day by my body against his—So help me God, our Lady, and good St. George!" Having made this oath, the appellant rose and retired to his pavilion, and the defendant was led forward by the marshal and sworn in his turn. A few minutes afterward, the oath was repeated in exactly the same form. Then a shroud was spread before the altar; the champions knelt on it side by side, and while their right hands met on the crucifix, they listened to the impressive warning of the priest, and repeated the oath for the third time in stronger and still more striking form. The mass for the dead was next chanted over them; at its conclusion the priest gathered up his paraphernalia and withdrew, while the champions retired for the last time to their pavilions. We may remark that the guilty almost invariably manifested the weakness of their cause during this ceremony. Some did so by introducing equivocation into the oath, others by sliding their hands away from the crucifix as they pronounced the binding words, and many more by manipulating the sacred volume after a fashion well known in Ireland, and which is there called "kissing the thumb." The herald's trumpet now blew three long blasts, and the king-at-arms shouted three times, "Champions do your duty." When the last blast had died away, the attendants lowered the pavilions and then cast them out of the lists, placed two chairs for the champions to rest should the judge allow it; tied two towels, each containing a loaf and a bottle of water, to the wickets and withdrew, leaving nobody in the lists but the constable, the marshal, their guards and the champions. All being ready, the marshal shouted three times, "*Laissez les aller.*" At the first cry the combatants mounted; at the second they leveled their lances, and at the third they rushed to the shock. If they were parted at any time during the fray, their position was carefully noted, in order that the fight, if requisite, should be renewed in all respects under the same conditions. And if the judge willed that they should agree, the constable took the one, and the marshal the other, and led them out of the lists at the same instant, because it was the opinion that "he who went out first had the dishonor." But if there was no interference, the fight was continued until one was vanquished. This, in most places, was the fate of the challenger if night fell and the stars appeared before he could conquer his antagonist. In Spain, however, the combat might be renewed for three days running, and in many quarters the appellant could demand to have as much time added to the day as had been wasted in the preliminary ceremonies.—*The Cornhill.*

GERMAN WAR SONGS.—No other country in modern Europe possesses such a treasure of patriotic song as Germany. If we ask what songs are familiar to us as French national songs, we shall say the Marseillaise and "Partant pour la Syrie," alone. The latter, revived for the third NAPOLEON, has retired indefinitely into the background, and the Marseillaise alone remains. But BERANGER? VICTOR HUGO? LAMARTINE? Politicians all, poets all, but neither war poets nor national poets; unfamiliar to the "people," as we understand that noun of multitude, not sung by thousands and thousands of voices at village feasts, at social gatherings, by the camp-fire, in courtly saloons, in the dusk of Summer evenings, in the warmth of Winter firelight, as our Vaterland poets are sung. Not familiar to every man, woman and child, to every boy in his school, to every workman in his shop, to every peasant and artisan, as KONER'S and ARNDT'S and SCHENKENDORFF'S songs are familiar. They are different men, viewing things from a different standpoint. And out of this arises our second observation. Throughout the Vaterland bards are pure in tone and pious in sentiment. There is nothing revolutionary in their tendencies; there is no scoffing, no contempt of sacred things, no blasphemy. "For God and Fatherland" was their cry. They feared God and honored the King.

One curious example of the love of the Germans for their war songs may be noted: It is this, that after the battle of Sedan, in nearly every Prussian soldier's knapsack was found a small copy of "Deutschtands Viriegern"—a tiny book of war songs, dated July, 1870, and containing, among others, the lyrics herein mentioned. —*Cassell's Magazine.*

CHRISTMAS MORN.

"Good-will to all!" See the gold rays fall
Of the rising sun on the eaves,
And the holly shakes as the glad day breaks,
And he rustles his shining leaves;

The thick berries red on his spike-crown'd head
Nod welcome out to the morn
Of the day of days when, mid pæans of praise,
The Savior of man was born.

The yews bend low o'er the drifted snow,
And their green arms creak and sway,
As the ice-keen breeze stirs the grand old trees,
And they chant the hymn of the day.

"Good-will to all!" in the cottage small,
Where the brown-cheek'd children shout;
"Good-will to all!" in the palace-hall,
Where the greetings of kings ring out.

What though some tears for the dead-gone years
Be mix'd with our smiles to-night?
It is ever so on our earth below:—
After darkness cometh light!

"Good-will to all!" And a guerdon small,
A silver fee for the poor;
O, on this glad day let us turn away
Not one, not *one*, from our door!

Your hands, dear friends! Thus the long year ends.
Let our petty discords cease;
The old year dies out mid our parting shout,
Let it go, let it go in peace!

—*A. B. H., in English Society.*

PURGED IN THE FIRE.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

"Uncle Herbert, will you tell us a Christmas story? Please do!" The speaker was only a little maid of six years old, but a dozen voices echoed the request.

It was Christmas, and we were gathered, according to time-honored custom, round a blazing fire under my grand-father's roof. We were a merry party, comprising some fifteen cousins of all ages, with their respective parents, and a few married and unmarried uncles and aunts. Uncle Herbert, otherwise Mr. Herbert Milward, was our uncle by marriage only, as the husband of our aunt Alice; but though thus only indirectly related to us, I think he was, with the younger ones, at any rate, the best-beloved of all. Perhaps because he had no children of his own, he was always specially sympathetic in youthful troubles, and specially lenient to youthful misdoings. However grave the offence, we were always sure of uncle Herbert's intercession, though he never failed privately to admonish the offender—very gently, but so gravely and seriously that his quiet words would bring tears to eyes too proud to weep under the severest punishment, and tame the most rebellious spirit to submission and repentance. He could be very merry at times, but there was a gravity mingled even with his merriment, as of one to whom the more solemn aspects of life are always present. His devotion to his wife was remarkable, even to our youthful eyes. No one could say that his affection was demonstrative, and yet no one could be in the company of the two together, even for an hour, without feeling that aunt Alice was more precious to her husband than anything else in the world. Wherever his eyes wandered, they always seemed to come back to her as their resting-place, and however deeply, to all appearance, he might be engrossed in conversation with others, he was always able, by some magical process of intuition, to divine her wants or wishes, and silently to supply them. Her furs were the warmest, her silks the softest; nothing was too costly, no trouble too great, that ministered to her pleasure. There seemed to be no such thing as forgetting, no possibility of mistake, wherever she was concerned. If she had found a four-leaved shamrock, and had good fairies constantly attending her, she could hardly have been better served. Nor was Aunt Alice behindhand in returning her husband's devotion. He was many years older than she, but I fancy the difference in their ages increased, if anything, her pride and pleasure in his love. She never did anything (indeed she had no need) to test or draw attention to his devotion, but she quietly abandoned herself to his tender care. She seldom thanked him in words, at least in company, but he was thanked enough by the look of perfect love and perfect peace which was the habitual expression of her gentle gray eyes.

On the present occasion uncle Herbert was seated in a high-backed oaken chair, with aunt Alice on a footstool beside him, and the rest of the party grouped around in a semicircle before the blazing fire. The candles were not yet lighted, but the dancing flame shed a ruddy light throughout the room, throwing into bold relief the carved work of the oaken furniture, and brightening with a genial glow the red berries and dark-green leaves of the Christmas evergreens. It was just the moment for a fireside story; and as uncle Herbert was known to be learned in legends and German fairy tales, which he was wont to narrate with much quiet humor, our little cousin's request met with general approval. Uncle Herbert did not immediately reply, but sat apparently reflecting; and the flickering firelight, playing over his face, showed us that he was in a serious mood. Aunt Alice glanced up at him inquiringly; and I thought to myself that I had never seen her bright young face (for she was many years younger than the rest of our aunts and uncles) look more perfectly beautiful than it did that night, and I caught myself wondering, half-unconsciously, how it had come to pass that she should have married one so much older, and to all appearance so unlike herself, as sober gray-headed uncle Herbert.

"Well, my dears," said uncle Herbert at last, "I will tell you a story, a true story. I don't think it is quite what you mean by a Christmas story; but the events about which I am going to tell you happened at Christmas-time, on this very night indeed, twenty-seven years ago.

We all settled down to listen, and, after a minute's pause, he went on:

"It was Christmas eve, or rather Christmas day, for 12 o'clock had struck, and the few people left in the streets were getting gradually fewer and fewer, till it seemed as though the policemen and the waits would shortly have London to themselves. It was a bitter cold night, and snow was beginning to fall. Most of the houses were dark and silent, though here and there lighted windows and stray sounds of music and of happy voices showed where a household was seeing Christmas in, and giving a merry welcome to the happy season. Out of a brilliantly-lighted house in one of the West-end streets there came a young man, who looked as though he felt but little share of the general rejoicing. He was barely twenty years of age; but though so young, his cheeks were flushed and his gait unsteady with wine, and his face was contracted with a look of hopeless despair. And little wonder! The house which he had just left was a noted gaming-house. He had been tempted by bad companions, and had gambled and lost—lost far more heavily than he could afford. One sin brings on another. In the vain hope of recovering his losses—with the insane persuasion, common to all gamblers, that he must win in the end if he could but play a little longer—he had taken, without leave, a large sum of his employer's money, had staked it, and lost. And then, all at once, a horrible remorse, a mad despair seized upon him. Now that it was too late, he saw the full magnitude of his crime; he knew too well that the money which, when he expected to be able to restore it secretly, he had thought of as borrowed, the law would call by a very different name. He knew now that, disguise it as he might, the taking of that money was a theft. Already he felt in imagination the officer's hand upon his collar, the handcuffs on his wrists. He could see the witnesses come forward to bear testimony to his crime; he could hear the voice of the judge pronouncing sentence on the thief. He dared not meet the consequences of his sin; and in his mad despair, fearing to face offended man, he had resolved to rush, by suicide, into the presence of an offended God. He was now hurrying home to drink his last draught on earth, the draught that brings the awful sleep whose waking is eternity. With his hands clenched, and his hat crushed down upon his forehead, he was rushing madly on, when he heard a sound of shouting and the tramp of galloping horses. He looked up and saw that the sky above him was red with a lurid glare; and then a runner passed him with the terrible cry of "Fire!" A house was on fire in one of the streets through which he had to pass; and, with a strange feeling of reprieve, he turned aside—turned aside from the road to his death—to see the sight. He elbowed his way through the crowd, which gave way right and left at the pressure of his muscular arms. The dwellers in the burning house had been somehow got out, and now stood half naked and shivering in the street. All, it was thought, were safe; but just as he reached the group there was a fearful shriek, for it was found that there was one, the youngest, missing. The poor mother sobbed and screamed, and was only held back by force from re-entering the burning house and perishing with her little one. The father, wringing his hands like one distracted, offered a thousand pounds to the firemen, if they would but rescue his child.

'It can't be done, Sir,' said one of them; 'not if you said a hundred thousand, it couldn't be done. The floors will fall in in five minutes, and it's certain death to enter that house again.'

The red flame was already shining through the first floor windows, and through the open door could be heard the roaring of the fire, which was fast gaining hold upon the staircase. A thought flashed across the young man's mind. His minutes were numbered, his life was worthless; its last act should be a worthy one, and if he perished in the attempt, he would be guilty of one sin the less. With quick eager questions he ascertained where the child was. The firemen guessed his intention, and held him back.

'Don't go, Sir, for God's sake! it's wasting two lives instead of one. We're not cowards, Sir, but this is certain death. If you attempt it, the Lord have mercy on your soul!'

'Amen!' said the young man; and throwing off the hands that held him back, he rushed into the house and up the staircase, which creaked and crackled under his feet.

The fire was raging on the first floor, the child was in the floor above. The first-floor landing was already in flames, but the young man, with a fierce leap, sprang past the burning spot, and in another second was in the room where the child lay. The room was already filled with smoke, and here and there the flames were darting through the crevices of the flooring. He could not see the bedstead, but a little frightened voice, sobbing 'Papa, dear; do come, papa!' guided him to the spot where the child lay. 'I will take you to your papa, dear,' he said; 'don't be frightened.' Then, quick as thought, he wrapped the little one in the blanket, and began to retrace his perilous route. Quick, however, as he had been, the flames had gained ground, and scorched his feet as he stepped over the burning floor. He rushed to the window, thinking by means of a ladder they might escape that way; but pouring from the windows below him was a sheet of flame. The burning staircase was the only road. Tying his handkerchief round his mouth and nose, to keep out the suffocating smoke, he groped his way to the door. To his horror, he heard a crash—one-half of the staircase had gone.

A deadly terror seized upon him; the last hope of escape was lost. The life which a few minutes since had seemed a burden too heavy to bear, suddenly grew unutterably precious. His eyes were blinded, his throat scorched by the thick black smoke, and tongues of flame were leaping up around him, seeking to devour him. With awful distinctness all the evil of his life, crowded into that one fearful moment, shone out clear as noonday before his eyes. Instruction wasted, good advice spurned, good resolutions broken, rose up before him; and one and all seemed to drag him down, lost, *lost*, LOST forever and ever! A moment since he had not dared to live, now he did not care to die. That awful horror lent him almost superhuman strength. Threading his way through the flames, which were now rising all around him, he crept down as far as he could, and then, grasping the broken hand-rail, swung himself over, and dropped, as best he might, a depth of some fifteen feet into the hall below. Fearfully burnt, he had just strength—still holding his burden in his arms—to stagger into the street, and fell senseless into the firemen's arms.

For many weeks he hovered between life and death, in the intensest physical and mental agony. For the most part of the time he was delirious, and haunted by the memory of that awful moment when, standing on the brink of death, he had looked over into the abyss of eternity. As he regained his reason, a new terror came over him, the dread of the consequences of his crime. He never woke without fearing to find the officers of justice at his bedside, waiting to carry him before the Judge. But this last fear had lost its former horror; being, as it were, swallowed up in his overwhelming thankfulness at having been saved from a far greater crime, the crime that knows no repentance. On his bed of pain he prayed as never before—prayed with a penitent and thankful heart; and by the time he was able to sit upright, he was ready to endure without flinching the shame and pain of his punishment. For some weeks the evil day was delayed; but at last, as he was beginning to regain strength, a visitor was announced, and his employer entered the room. With a beating heart, but still resigned, he felt that his hour was come, and nerved himself to meet it. To his surprise, his master made no allusion to his misconduct, but kindly praised his courage and his daring deed; and the thought flashed across him that his folly and sin were still unknown, and if he did but keep his own counsel, might so remain forever. The tempter whispered, 'Be silent!' and for a moment he was inclined to yield; but his good angel triumphed. With bowed head and downcast eyes he told the story of his sin, and waited to hear his sentence from the man he had wronged. For a few minutes the good old man (God bless him) was silent, and then he said, with tears in his eyes:

'My lad, I am glad that you have told me this, very glad; although I knew it before. You have committed a great sin, and you have suffered a heavy punishment. Thank God, who in his mercy has saved you from a far greater sin—a sin whose punishment is forever and ever. You have been through a fiery trial; let your future life show that you have been truly 'purged in the fire.' For your offense against myself, God forbid that I should add to your punishment—I forgive you with all my heart, my boy, and you need have no fear about coming back to your old place in the office, for no one except myself will ever know a word of the matter. One thing, however, you must promise me—never to enter a gambling-house or to stake money at play again.'

'That I do, Sir, upon my hon—' he began, and then stopped short, as the unfitness of the word, from one in his situation, flashed cruelly upon him.

'Nay, lad,' said the old man, holding out his hand, 'don't take it back, that is just the way in which I want your promise. Upon your honor, mind. It is a little tarnished now; let it be the labor of your life to make and keep it bright.'

And, with God's help, he did. He rose from that bed, where for so many weeks he had lain in peril of his life, an altered man. His former friends wondered at the change, and declared that he had left his youth in the fire; but they knew nothing of the fiercer fire which during those long weeks had raged in his bosom, and had scorched away the relish for youthful follies. Having stood so awfully near to death, he had learnt to value life; and to strive so to use life, that death should be no longer terrible. And so striving, God prospered him. The father of the little girl he had saved was a wealthy man, and with generous kindness helped him even against his will. His kind old master stood his faithful friend, and even made opportunities of showing his confidence in him; and for many years past he has been a partner in the firm, a rich and respected merchant. Very few people know his story. It is not a very merry one, but it was uppermost in my mind when Effie asked for a story—it mostly is on Christmas-eve—and therefore I have told it it to you."

"Who was the young man, uncle?" said a childish voice. "Have we ever seen him?"

"Yes, my dear, you know him very well."

"But what became of the little girl that was saved, uncle? Is she alive still?"

"My dears," said uncle Herbert, "the little girl is now your aunt Alice."

Just then, the fire-light, which had grown dim, flickered up into a blaze. Aunt Alice bent over uncle Herbert's hand and kissed it, and as she raised her head, we could see that there were tears in her eyes. And we guessed the rest of the story.—*Angelo J. Lewis, in English Society.*

THE THEATRE AT MAYENCE.—A necessary sequel to a visit to the railway hospital is one to the theatre. More strictly speaking, indeed, it ought to have claimed precedence. So far as ordinary performances are concerned, there is *relâche* on the Mayence boards pending the conclusion of the bloody drama in which all Germany plays her part. Yet I venture to say the Mayence theatre was never better worth a visit. It is a large and handsome pile of red sandstone, with a semi-circular front, where corridors lighted with deep bay-windows run round the amphitheatre, and with ample accommodation to the back of the stage. Round the sides and in the centre of the spacious rooms are piled every manner of necessary for the cure of the wounds or the solace of the wounded. Blankets, cushions, sheets, pillows, shirts, stockings, bundles of bandages, air-cushions and water-pillows, splints, sticking-plaster, sand-bags for absorbing blood, wooden cases for shattered limbs, slings and crutches. More bulky matters, such as mattrasses or chests of lint and medicines, are stowed away elsewhere. These supplies were partly passed in from the country, chiefly manufactured on the spot. In each of the deep windows round the long corridors was a table; round each of the tables sat a trio or quartet of young ladies, their fingers and tongues and sewing-machines all busily at work. Some of them were excessively pretty girls; and even the plain ones were animated into an expression something like beauty by earnestness and emulation. Of all the towns at a distance from the war, Mayence has seen the most of its miseries, and done the most to alleviate them. Already, in the third week of August, 18,000 wounded had passed through, and yet the tide from the fields by Metz had barely set in. Had the balance of the war declined by a trifle to the other side, the fate of Metz might have been that of Mayence; and in their gratitude for the education they had been spared at the hands of the civilizing army, the citizens seemed to count all their trouble and their sacrifices as nothing.—*On the Trail of the War, by Alexander Innes Shand.*

MR. TENNYSON'S NEW VOLUME.—The new work by the Poet Laureate, which was published on the 15th inst., consists of twelve songs in various metres, and is entitled "The Window; or, the Loves of the Wrens." These were written four years ago, at the request of Mr. ARTHUR SULLIVAN, as a kind of libretto for some music he had in contemplation.

In general style, in scope, and variety of metre, as well as from its autobiographical form of soliloquy, the poem reminds us strikingly of "Maud," with one essential difference as regards the ending of the story. The hero relates the beginning, progress and happy consummation of his love, in twelve lyrics, which, with one exception, are soliloquies.

The fifth song contains a stanza which gives to the poem its second title, "The Loves of the Wrens:"

"Men's love and birds' love,
And women's love and men's!
And you, my wren, with a crown of gold,
You, my Queen of the wrens!
You, the Queen of the wrens!
We'll be birds of a feather;
I'll be the King of the Queen of the Wrens,
And we'll have a nest together."

The story is so slight in texture as almost to evade a prose analysis, and is so full of delicate and subtle beauty as to take several careful readings before it can be understood and enjoyed fully. That it will add anything to the poet's fame is not very likely; but it is in no way unworthy of his genius.—*The Echo.*

"THE MAN, CHRIST JESUS."—It being the usual custom of the Roman Governors to advertise the Senate and people of such material things as happened in their respective provinces, PUBLIUS LENTULUS, being President in the days of TIBERIUS CÆSAR, the Emperor, wrote the following epistle to the Senate concerning Jesus Christ:

CONSCRIPT FATHERS: There appeared in these our days a man of great virtue, named Jesus Christ, who is yet living among us, and of the Gentiles is accepted for a Prophet of truth, but his own disciples call him the Son of God. He raises the dead and cureth all manner of diseases. A man of stature somewhat tall and comely, with a very reverend countenance, such as the beholders may both love and fear, his hair of the color of a filbert fully ripe, plain to his ears, whence downward it is more orient of color, somewhat curling, and waving about his shoulders. In the midst of his head is a seam or a partition of his hair, after the manner of the Nazarites; his forehead plain and delicate; his face without spot or wrinkle, beautified with a comely red; his nose and mouth exactly formed; his beard thick, the color of his hair, not of any great length, but forked; his eyes gray, clear and quick; in reproving, terrible; in admonishing, courteous; in speaking, very modest and wise; in proportion of body, well shaped. None have seen him laugh, but many have seen him weep; a man of his singular beauty surpasses the children of men."

A Man Who Has Dug His Own Grave.

An Indianapolis correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* tells the following story of a man who in this connection has rather a suspicious name:

"JOHN DYE, an old and respected citizen of Hancock County, in this State, has had his grave dug for a number of years. He accomplished this work with his own hands, excavating the earth to a proper depth, laying a stone slab on the bottom and walling up the sides with brick. A similar slab is intended to cover the grave, and what is singular, Mr. DYE has scooped out of the nether stone a hollow, for his body to rest in, with an elevation, in which there is another hollow for the head. It is his desire that when he dies he shall be dressed in certain specified clothing, and that a blanket shall be laid in the tomb upon which his remains are to be laid. Another blanket is to be spread over him, and the large slab of stone placed on the tomb, the earth filled in above. It will be seen that he does away with the use of a coffin entirely, and he further requests that no burial service be used or sermon preached, and that no monument be erected to his memory. Recently a heavy rain caved in the earth above the tomb, and Mr. DYE set about repairs with a vigor that was surprising. To prevent a recurrence of the accident, he has walled the grave up to the surface of the earth, and carefully covered it with boards and sod. The grave is on his farm, and within a few feet of the railroad. Mr. DYE is not yet an old man, having barely passed three-score. He is hale and hearty, and lives in the old tavern-stand, where the mail-wagons in Winter, and the gay stage-coaches in Summer, used to stop for dinner and a change of horses. His memory is stored with rich jokes and adventures of that period, and he owes a sort of grudge to the locomotive which has deprived him of his entertainment and profit. He says he "hasn't got used to the pesky change," and it is somewhat singular that he should have chosen the near vicinity of the railroad for his last resting-place.

Extraordinary Doings at the Wayne County, Mich., Jail.

From the Detroit Tribune, Dec. 19.

During the few last years past many strange things have happened at the Wayne County Jail, and now we have to record another occurrence which must take the palm in the matter of mysteriousness. Yesterday morning, about 1 o'clock, two or three of the prisoners confined in the first ward of that institution were simultaneously thrown from their beds with considerable force, and their screams of alarm and for assistance aroused the officers of the prison, who were further astounded by the facts that the alarm bell in the turnkey's room commenced to ring violently, chairs were moved about the building, tables were promiscuously piled up, and a guitar and a piano in the Sheriff's apartments gave forth musical sounds without any visible assistance. The gas-lights in the building were also extinguished, and the noises continued for some time until it ceased as suddenly as it had commenced, and all became quiet. When lights had been procured everything was in confusion. Beds were overturned, papers laid scattered about the place, chairs were capsized, and the office desk had been removed to the centre of the floor. At daylight the Sheriff was notified of the occurrence, but the only solution of the matter that he offers, is that the jail had been visited by the spirits (very strong) of the deceased Wayne County Democracy. Many received the statements of the jail officers with skepticism, but they stoutly insisted upon the unmistakable reality of the demonstrations of which they were the victims. Our Spiritualist friends will have no difficulty in explaining those phenomena, but for those who do not hold their opinions, the only explanation would seem to be that another earthquake has visited us, and devoted its attentions exclusively to the jail.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Scotland is a poetical land, and many a bloody fight on her borders has been celebrated in spirited minstrelsy. Since the days of WALTER SCOTT, however, we have not heard much of those affrays whose ugly prose of broken heads and mangled limbs were of yore so elegantly served up in poesy for "gentle lords and ladies gay." But a contest lately occurred at Cumnock, in which one of the combatants, FELIX MCGEE, after being fatally wounded by BERNARD CAMPBELL, like the heroes of Chevy Chace, vented his dying words in "tolerable verse." One of the witnesses at the trial of CAMPBELL, stated that while the wounded man lay upon the ground, he cried out—

"Pardon, Barney pardon,
My wounds are very sore.
You shall be killed, my Scottish lad;
I'll wound thee ten times more."

We have hitherto been credulous on the subject of these dying words spoken in good rhyme and meter, but FELIX MCGEE seems to have been of the original type of Scottish heroes, of whom the poets have told us.

JAMES KENWORTHY, J. P., which is "Justice of the Peace and Quorum," has lately been mulcted in the sum of £1,200 at Manchester, England, for a breach of promise of marriage. ELEANOR MARSH was a bar-maid at the Thatched House Hotel, where she was wont to "chronicle small beer," without supplying any other nutriment to the fools which loitered there, unless it could be extracted from her arch smiles and lively conversation. JAMES KENWORTHY, J. P., was wont to refresh at the Thatched House, and sometimes he appears to have tarried long at his favorite beverage, and to have become fascinated with the presiding genius of the place. In one of his affectionate epistles to his charmer, he exclaims:

"Oh! rum and honey, rum and honey, what hast thou done for JAMES! I arrived at Ashton all right, but of course little would have more, and the result, as a matter of course, was JAMES got drunk. If JAMES had been taken before JAMES KENWORTHY, J. P., he would have been fined 5s. and costs, or fourteen days, for being drunk and incapable."

His affections for a time were about equally divided between rum and honey and the bewitching dispenser thereof at the Thatched House; but in time the former, as such insidious charms always will, absorbed his whole heart, and ELEANOR was left to "sit like patience on a monument, smiling at grief," until her consoler came in the shape of damages awarded by a high-minded dozen of her peers. JAMES, as his learned counsel admitted, "had behaved like an absolute fool," but ELEANOR seems to have made a very good thing out of her blighted affections.

That doctor is a rash man who ventures to take his own medicines, and a druggist is still more so who undertakes to put up prescriptions for his own taking. A young apothecary of Pittsburg learned this to his cost lately by attempting to act both as physician and druggist for himself, and the result is not a very favorable advertisement for his business. Suffice it to say the rash youth perished in the attempt to apply to himself the practice which for years he had been administering for others.

One of the best qualifications for local office in these troublous days of the world's history, must be a goodly endowment of sinewy muscle. Logic is getting out of date, and no one can expect to settle any great question satisfactorily by dint of argument. Hard blows with the fist will bring a debate to a conclusion and inaugurate a new system of management in public affairs, when mere brains, toiling on the problem of the true conditions of the public welfare, would spend their labor in vain. This truth was lately exemplified in a meeting of the County Commissioners at Tippecanoe, Ind. In the midst of a weighty discussion one member rose near enough to the requirements of great statesmanship to call his colleague a liar, but that colleague was more than a match for him in the councils of Tippecanoe, and in his wisdom and his might rose like a giant and knocked his erring brother down. The great question under consideration was thereby settled beyond all further parley.

"To expostulate what true madness is," or what constitutes sufficient evidence of a state of lunacy, is beyond our power or purpose, but it seems as though the ruling powers in Ceylon were so near that unhealthy condition of mind themselves as to attempt to bring others within the same category on rather slight grounds. Mr. JAMES BRABAZON PILKINGTON had a quarrel with Sir HERCULES ROBINSON, the Governor of the island, and had the presumption to shake his fist in the high and mighty face of his honor, and to call that lofty official a brute. All this was very improper, and should have been punished accordingly; but the authorities immediately jumped at the conclusion that nothing short of actual madness could explain so audacious a proceeding, and accordingly Mr. PILKINGTON was seized and informed he was a raving maniac. An attempt was made at first to have him sent into England, probably because it would not be noticed there, but after a long series of adventures in the defense of his sanity, he finally got a hearing before a Magistrate in his senses, and was discharged with a compliment on the skill with which he had conducted his own defense. It is a pity the Governor of Ceylon should be subject to an attack of so dangerous a character, but let Sir HERCULES do what he may now, PILKINGTON will undoubtedly have his day.

If a man can't always have justice in this world, he is never deprived of the comforting assurance that he can have plenty of law, and there is no place more famed than Connecticut for peculiar and original statutes. It makes no great effort to administer justice between man and man, but it is very difficult for any of its citizens to go through the world without a very satisfactory allowance of law, either blue, or of some other attractive tint. A precocious youth at Bridgeport lately robbed his father, and being indifferent to parental authority, was handed over to the law. The "old antic," of course, did not hesitate to take him, and dealt with him after the peculiarly sagacious manner of Connecticut Dogberries. The boy was not punished or sent to the Reformatory, but fined for the benefit of the Commonwealth, and the father who had been robbed was compelled to pay the fine. The boy will never venture upon a second offense after having justice dealt out in this stern fashion.

The charge that women do not receive a fair consideration in the administration of law, and that men have greatly the advantage, because they run the machine themselves, does not find proof in experience. We do not hear of men obtaining large damages for a breach of promise of marriage, and they have no chance at all in a square fight, if we are to judge from some "modern instances." The law generally takes the feminine side in all little family misunderstandings. A man at Lawton, Mich., lately aroused his wife's ire by some offense against the rules of her domestic realm. She proceeded to administer summary punishment by knocking him down with a stick of wood, and throwing a pail of water over him. He did not receive this chastisement with becoming meekness, but in a spirit of unseemly rebellion choked his lady and mistress, whereupon she called in the aid of the law, which was framed by cruel man to oppress the fairer portion of the creation, and the rebellious husband was fined $15. Of course this is all right. We only mention it to show the partiality of the law and of law-makers for women.

If there is any heroism in rushing to meet the grim monster that has been the dread of all living things from time immemorial, the rising generation is endowed with a degree of moral courage which has not been recorded of any past age. Boys nowadays, on the smallest provocation, seem to betake themselves to poison or the knife and pistol, and to face the King of Terrors without hesitation. The undiscovered country no longer puzzles the youthful will, but beardless youngsters and timid maidens set out boldly to explore its confines on the slightest cause of dissatisfaction with the sphere in which their lot is cast. One of the latest instances is that of a boy in Detroit, who made his quietus with a dose of strychnine because his father sent him to a school where he was "plagued" by the other scholars. The cowardly practice of ill-bred youth in making the life of a fellow intolerable at school is sufficiently deplorable, but the prevailing readiness to seek relief in death from such trivial troubles is something alarming.

An interesting incident is related as having occurred at a hurdle-race at Croydon. The favorite horse was *Grand Falconer*, but everybody's expectations were disappointed at the close of the race when a comparatively unknown racer, *Charon*, came in an easy winner. The owner of the horse was a Mr. BENNETT, who was at that moment among the starving remnant of the population of Paris unconscious of the triumph of his steed, while his wife, a French woman, was seen in the paddock, near the race-ground, rubbing *Charon* down with a pocket handkerchief. Many curious little incidents as well as great events are brought about by the "whirligig of time."

We are indebted to all sorts of people for the prodigious amount of wisdom which has got abroad in the world since the days of Solomon, but among modern philosophers none are more liberal of their wise saws than Police Justices and other petty Magistrates. Their shrewd observations and sagacious comments on matters moral, social and æsthetic, are generally lost on a perverse audience that refuses to be benefited by them, but occasionally they get abroad, and scatter their beneficent influence among those who can appreciate the blessing. Mr. Justice BYLES, of the great English metropolis, has for many years been considering the effect upon the well being of men of the habit of wearing a beard and mustache, which, however, in his dignified way he speaks of as "hirsute appendages." He announces, "as the result of long observation," that they "greatly impede the voice." Either there has been some mistake in the construction of the male portion of the human race, or nature must have provided for a muffling of the voice as a consummation to be wished. It is only on the latter supposition that BYLES and nature can be reconciled, and so one will presume to dispute the authority of BYLES on "hirsute appendages."

It is a good thing to be well provided on starting off for a long journey; but the best policy, according to a venerable saw, is to come honestly by one's equipments. A stout, well-fed Irishwoman was lately brought before a Police Magistrate, charged with having in her possession a miscellaneous assortment of merchandise of which she could give no other account than that she had bought it for her daughter's child, who was going on a long voyage. The following is an inventory of the articles intended for the child's journey: A piece of pork, a breast of mutton, a piece of beef, a loin of veal, two potatoes, two odd boots, (both new,) three herrings, a pig's foot, three apples, an orange, a piece of bacon, a piece of fur, a child's frock, and a quantity of Brazil nuts. The woman was sent to prison for two months for her thoughtfulness in providing this outfit.

It is one of the popular delusions of the day that the age of romance and poetry, of superstitions and belief in the miraculous has gone by, and a thousand years, more or less, of matter of fact prose and the daylight of reason has been ushered in. But to the faithful reader of contemporary chronicles it must seem as though we were now in the full blaze of the colored lights of an age of fable. All manner of new ghost stories are told to gaping and credulous hearers, the wildest adventures are undertaken with all the appliances of primitive and picturesque barbarism, and nothing in the way of physical or moral phenomena is too strange or marvelous to find a place in sober records of the time. Dreams have all the potency ever attributed to them by the seers and sybils of old, and visions of the night come to the prisoner and the outcast, as a terror or a consolation. A Cleveland wife-murderer is visited nightly by the spirit of his departed and much injured spouse, whom he had dispatched to bliss, in violation of Divine and human mandates. She comes clad in white, with a sweet rebuke on her shining countenance, lighting up his dismal prison with an unearthly glory, and the sanctimonious sinner, who deserves no such blessed visitation, declares that he derives great comfort from it, and daily longs for its repetition. He was rejoiced, too, the poetic martyr to his own wayward impulses, when they told him that he was convicted in the first degree, and would be hung. He wanted nothing better than to make a permanent sojourn with the wife of his bosom in the realms of bliss, prepared for those who live a life of crime and outrage in this beautiful world given them for a home, and till they should be fitted for the great change.

DISRAELI AND GLADSTONE.

Their Personal Appearance—Mrs. Disraeli—Some of the Peculiarities of the Rival Statesmen—Mr. Gladstone an Authority in Bric-a-Brac.

From an Occasional Correspondent.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1870.

I met this afternoon Mr. DISRAELI and wife walking in Piccadilly, near Green Park, and was struck with his general air of feebleness, like to old age, although for England he cannot be said to be but little over the meridian—sixty-three. Great numbers of Peers and of the upper classes attain ninety and odd, and I recall the fact that the average age of six nobles, the only ones dying in a period of four months, was ninety-two. Mr. DISRAELI'S tall figure was bent over, perhaps in some part to accommodate his wife, who is short, and that unconsciously he was, as it were, crouching a little, so that she could better keep his arm. His hair is still curly and black, quite free from gray, and his eye has lost none of its fire and mischief of youth. As one of the most successful politicians of the day, and considering the prejudices of birth and caste he had to contend with, perhaps the most successful, Mr. DISRAELI would anywhere be a marked man; but just now his extraordinary introduction to a new edition of his novels lends additional interest to a chance meeting with him. There is something as amusing as paradoxical in the character of a man who is clever enough to win the leadership of the sober, steady-going Tories, boasting that his sentimental novels of forty-four years ago have, in spite of his earnest efforts to suppress them, been published and read in larger numbers than any other books of this century! So he has written in the said introduction.

MRS. DISRAELI.

Mrs. DISRAELI, Viscountess Beaconsfield by the grace of Queen VICTORIA, as her husband declined a title, is no less than sixteen years older than he, and yet would hardly be set down as an old woman, and might pass for smart seventy when seen on the promenade in full walking dress. She was, long time ago, a successful milliner, and married a Mr. LEWIS, who, dying, left her a handsome estate, four thousand pounds per annum, which, joined to the Ex-Premier's, has enabled them to maintain town and country establishments commensurate with his pretensions and successes in the political arena. Rumor has it that theirs has been an especially happy life, and surely their devotion, as evidenced this afternoon when I met them, on his part marked by the genuine gallantry of a *vieux beau*, would affirm its truth. First in the councils of England, successful in literature, strong and always well of body, rich and loved where he loves, DISRAELI *jadis* dubbed by the Opposition, that Jew boy, is surely the darling of fortune. And his triumphs are not without teaching to those ambitious in the ways he has trod, for he has said that there is not much difference in men save in energy.

MR. GLADSTONE.

Mr. GLADSTONE is not so often seen in the streets of London, yet I met him, too, in Piccadilly, a few days ago, walking alone, with great rapidity, his elbows and shoulders drawn back like a very walkist, going at a rate not less than five miles the hour. He is much like to the photographs seen of him in all the shop-windows in the Kingdom, but not so tall as one might suppose therefrom, for we judge something of a man's height from the face and bust. In its way, Mr. GLADSTONE'S political career is not less remarkable than his rival, DISRAELI, although they have pursued different roads to the goal of their ambitions; and, of a truth, it may be said, equally inconsistent in those especially-marked measures with which their names are mostly connected. The Prime Minister is beyond all dispute the greatest living orator, as he is not second as a scholar, being equally versed in the ancient as in modern lore. Once asked how he employed his mind when duty compelled him to sit on the bench of the Ministers while a Tory was delivering himself of a dull three hours' harangue, he said, "Last evening, when Mr. —— was speaking, I turned 'Rock of ages' into the Greek, and had half an hour to spare." Mr. GLADSTONE is accounted high authority in bric-a-brac; indeed, the highest in porcelain. The story goes that his passion for collecting is out of proportion to his estate, and that his good wife frequently persuades the dealers to take back articles for which there is not money to pay. Many remarkable tales are told of eccentricities of the Premier in private life, which remind one of the saying that "Genius is akin to madness." But, withal, he is extravagantly lauded, even to worship, by the Liberals, while, on the other hand, DISRAELI is heartily hated by the Tories, who tolerate him for his talents, and because they have no other competent leader.

FINE ARTS.

Picture Sales—Rothermel's "Battle of Gettysburg"—Pittsburg Art Association—De Laroche's "Napoleon."

The sale of pictures by auction was much overdone last season, and importers of second and third-rate paintings suffered severely. It is to be hoped that more discretion will be used this year, and that we shall have fewer sales and choicer collections offered at them. The two sales that have already taken place have been tolerably successful. At JOHNSTON & VAN TASSEL'S sale, BERNARDI'S "Swiss Lake" brought $117 50; WM. HART'S "Coming Storm," $150; "Landscape," by same artist, $113; NAVIER'S "Drawing-Room," $110; HENRY BACON'S "The Acquisition," $92; SCHULTEN'S "Landscape," $255; J. W. CASILEAR'S "Landscape," $110; BIERSTADT'S "Wind River Mountains," $525; JUL. HUBNER'S "The Convalescent," $240; JOS. MILLER'S "The Visitor," $160. The sale at the Leeds Art Gallery, continuing two evenings, also went off well.

BOSTON PICTURE SALES.

The Boston *Journal* of the 22d inst. contains some rather severe remarks on "Picture Auctions," in Boston, of course. They do not, we are quite sure, apply to our New-York auctioneers. The *Journal* says:

"At a recent auction sale, a little picture of CASTAN—not a pleasant subject, nor a particularly fine painting—was bid up to over $300. Now, GOUPIL sold, last Winter, at private sale, two exquisite paintings of CASTAN'S, nearly double the size, and vastly better painted, for $200 apiece. Last year, a large number of paintings were bid off at laughably extravagant prices, to a Boston gentleman, which paintings had been sold to him, before the auction sale, at half the sums which the auctioneer bid them up to. We hear the names of well-known citizens given as the purchasers at these auction sales, at exorbitant prices, when it is perfectly well known by those who are at all initiated, that the pictures are really bid in, nobody being tempted up to the requisite point. As a proof of this, the same pictures have been sold over and over again at successive sales, each sale appearing to be genuine. The injurious effects of all this is to prevent art-lovers from procuring paintings at prices commensurate with their real worth, and to give a fictitious value to inferior productions. One result of this state of things is shown in the cost to-day of the paintings of a celebrated artist, MEYER VON BREMEN. He sends nearly all his pictures to this country now, "because he gets fabulous prices for them." European artists would be astounded at the prices their pictures are bid off for here. Some early efforts or unsuccessful sketches of celebrated men are offered here as *chef d'œueres*, and the same value is fixed upon them as for their really finished works. A name alone is sufficient for the auctioneer to roll over in his mouth with unction, and to use as the bait to toll in the simple."

ROTHERMEL'S "BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG."

The large painting of the Battle of Gettysburg, by ROTHERMEL, is finished, and was exhibited on the 20th inst., in the Philadelphia Academy of Music. The Philadelphia papers have long descriptions of the painting and of the effect of its first exhibition. One enthusiastic writer says:

"A master-work of art, the large canvas was stretched behind the curtain on the stage, brilliantly lighted up by a multitude of gas jets in the flies and wings, stretched in such a way and position as to be distinctly seen from every portion of the house. When the curtain rolled up, displaying the painting, the applause was unbounded, wild for a minute, and then the thronged audience subsided into a death-like stillness, every eye devouring the picture in its entirety and in its details."

From the only criticism of the work that has come under our notice we take the following:

"Colorists are not usually draughtsmen, and Mr. ROTHERMEL'S weak point is his drawing. His usual faults are not so apparent in this picture as in some of his previous works, but few of the figures are really well drawn, and some of them are positively bad. As a compensation for this the flesh is magnificently painted, and the figures are full of life and movement. The motion that fills the picture is one of its most admirable qualities, and the spectator can almost imagine that he hears the noise and rush of the battle as he gazes upon the animated scene that the artist has represented. Simply as a piece of painting the picture is superb, and apart from its size and the importance of its subject, it is Mr. ROTHERMEL'S master-piece. It may surprise many who are aware of Mr. ROTHERMEL'S reputation as a colorist, and who hear this work praised as a color picture, to find so little positive color in it. The prevailing tone is gray, but none but a colorist of genius could have produced such a wonderful harmony of tints, and whenever a bit of color is introduced, as in the flags that wave over the heads of the fighters, it tells with remarkable effect. The sky, overhung by the clouds of battle, is a beautiful piece of painting, and the landscape portion of the picture is treated admirably. The bit of distance to the right seen above the heads of the rebels and the view of Round Top upon the left would be sufficient of themselves to make Mr. ROTHERMEL'S reputation as a landscape painter."

Mr. ROTHERMEL must have improved wonderfully lately, if he is able to paint a landscape as it should be. We have not a few of his works here, which certainly do not speak very highly of his merits in that branch of art.

DELAROCHE'S "NAPOLEON."

We have received the following note from CARL BENSON:

Allow me to rectify a slight error in your "Fine Arts" article, last Sunday. The New-York purchaser of DELAROCHE'S "Napoleon Crossing the Alps" did not sell it again because "he feared that he had given too much for it," but because the painter had made a repetition of the subject and sold it to an English nobleman. "Now," said the New-Yorker, "people will think that the picture in England is the original and mine the repetition." He was annoyed at this idea, and sold his picture, erroneously, no doubt; but I have often thought it a pity that custom and etiquette allow artists to repeat their subjects. The practice opens a wide door for confusion and fraud.

PITTSBURG ART ASSOCIATION.

Pittsburg has an Art Association, and at a recent meeting of the subscribers, the following-named gentlemen were chosen as officers to serve during the current year:

President—Thomas Bell.
Vice-President—Frank Rahm.
Treasurer—Paul H. Hacke.
Corresponding Secretary—D. P. Corwin.
Recording Secretary—W. D. McCue.
General Manager—C. M. Johns.
Directors—T. Brent Swearingen, C. B. Shea, Rev. I. C. Pershing, Charles Linford, W. H. Edgerton, James McH. Reinhart, C. B. Follansbee.

At the opening of the rooms of the Association pictures by ROTHERMEL, BIERSTADT, SHATTUCK, and others, were exhibited. Also "The Appointment," by MAGRATH, of this City, which is thus spoken of:

"The Appointment" is a very suggestive little picture, by MAGRATH, and, we opine, will find many admirers. A young girl, gracefully drawn, is coyly looking through a densely-shaded avenue for the expected lover. The trysting place is all that the most romantic *Juliet* could desire—shady, secluded, and beautiful. The sunlight lies in a yellow patch just at the hem of her dress, and the trees beyond are lit up with a brightness that gives a warmth to the whole piece. This is a very pretty subject, and has been very prettily treated.

NOTES.

Some fear has been apprehended that on account of the war in Europe we are likely to be deluged with importations of pictures by foreign artists. From all we can learn from those best calculated to know, we feel quite certain that no such fear need be entertained. So far the importations have been lighter than usual at this season of the year....The statue of JOHN A. ANDREW will arrive in Boston next month, and the presentation service will be a pleasant episode of the approaching legislative session....At the Boston Art Club was recently exhibited the famous work by WASHINGTON ALLSTON, "Elijah Fed by the Ravens," which was purchased at the sale of the late Lord TAUNTON, and presented to the Art Museum by Mrs. SAMUEL HOOPER and Miss ALICE HOOPER. The picture is said to be a noble one, full of sentiment and power....It is proposed to raise $250,000 to organize a Metropolitan Museum of Art in this City. Subscriptions may be sent to S. G. WARD, No. 52 Wall-street, New-York.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

Mme. CHARLES REYBAUD, the well-known French novelist, has just died at Nice.

It is stated that King WILLIAM'S new title will be Emperor *in*, and not Emperor *of*, Germany.

Earl DE GREY and RIPON, it is announced, will be re-elected Grand Master of the English Freemasons for the coming year.

Coblentz contains 20,000 prisoners—10,000 from Sedan, 3,000 from Strasbourg, and 7,000 from Metz. They are employed in the defensive works of the fortress.

It is estimated that Paris, at the beginning of the siege, contained more than 20,000,000 rats! This number is rapidly decreasing by their general use as food.

The *Athenæum* states that Prof. FAWCETT is preparing for publication a course of lectures, which he has just delivered at Cambridge, on "Pauperism: its Causes and Remedies."

Mr. G. F. TRAIN honored Queenstown by not going ashore when the steamer on which, we regret to say, he returned to America, stopped there.

The *Saturday Review* fears for our Chief Magistrate, and declares that "Gen. GRANT'S Message to Congress confirms the suspicion that he has fallen under the sinister influence of Gen. BUTLER."

It has been decided by the Bavarian Government that no Bavarian Catholic priest can be punished or suspended by his bishop for not acknowledging the decisions of the late council and the dogma of infallibility.

Mr. GOPAUL CHUNDER ROY has been made an M. D. by the Royal College of Surgeons. This is the first instance of a native Indian gentleman's having been admitted to that distinction.

After reading over Gen. BUTLER'S last speech, the *Spectator* declares that, "between BUTLER and BISMARCK we prefer BISMARCK, though we should witness the relegation of both to private life with acquiescent resignation."

The London correspondent of the *Nord* informs the readers of that journal that the coincidence of President GRANT'S Message with Prince GORTSCHAKOFF'S repudiation of the Treaties of 1856, is regarded in England as too remarkable to be the result of chance.

Railway collisions don't pay in England, so far as the companies are concerned. A London correspondent writes that it is the opinion of at least one official of the London and Northwestern Railway Company that the recent accident at Harrow will cost not much less than £100,000 in damages.

A French paper states that Mlle. MARGUERITE BELLANGER has died of small-pox at Cassel. She has left to her surviving child (the one so often mentioned in the secret papers of the Tuileries) a residence in the Avenue Friedland, a splendid country seat, and deeds of various descriptions.

Boys in Belgium have for the last two years enjoyed the privilege of traveling to school by certain trains at a greatly reduced price. A recent decision of the Government has extended the privilege to express trains, and the consequence is that the sons of well-to-do people in the villages are now generally sending their sons to the middle-class schools established in the large towns.

The *Art Médical* says it is a mistake to suppose, as some journals assert, that the flesh of the dog is good for food. It is so only under certain conditions, when fed almost exclusively on vegetable matter—that is, in a manner unsuited to its natural organization. The Chinese, Greenlanders and Esquimaux, who live on this food, feed their dogs in a particular manner for some time before they are killed for eating. The street-dog is not fit for food then and there, even in a besieged town. This must be consoling news for the Parisians, but it is "Hobson's choice" with them.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: "A St. Patrick is evidently wanted in India as much as ever he was in Ireland. During the year 1869 no less than 11,416 persons in the Bengal Presidency died from the effects of snake-bite. The return giving us this information has been carefully compiled; all the merely sick and wounded have been omitted, as well as those sudden deaths which in India are often attributed to snake-bites by heirs to property unduly eager for their inheritance. Such a mortality from such a cause is sufficiently startling to the sophisticated mind of a stay-at-home Englishman, but the more surprising fact remains that this destruction of human life goes on year by year, and that no efficacious means are adopted to check its ravages."

A very singular and touching case has just been made known. It occurs in the fishing village of Inver, near Tain, in the family of JAMES FRASER, alias Stow, fisherman. FRASER recently buried his second wife, making the eighteenth death in his family since his first marriage. By his first wife he had fourteen children, ten of whom he has buried. By the second wife he had eleven children, of whom six are dead; so that he has, in a comparatively short period, followed to the grave his two wives and sixteen of his twenty-five children, making in all eighteen deaths since his first marriage. The poor man, who is now unable to support himself, has still alive four of his first and five of his second wife's children. Such a family of children are enough to ruin any man, to say nothing of the wives.

Tennessee Asked to Reimburse Gen. Pillow.

From the Nashville Union, Dec. 20.

A petition was presented for Gen. PILLOW, in the House of Representatives, yesterday, asking the State to take charge of the case in the Federal Court, against Major J. J. MURPHY and himself, and in favor of RIDDLE & Co. Gen. PILLOW, in 1861, while in command at Memphis, as the senior Major-General of the Tennessee forces, before the Tennessee troops were turned over to the Confederate States, by authority of the State, seized upon some flat-boats, loaded with coal, which belonged to RIDDLE & Co., citizens of Pittsburg, Penn. Since the war, RIDDLE & Co. have brought suit against Gen. PILLOW and the other officers who acted under him in the seizure of the coal. In the recent trial before the Federal Court at Memphis, Judge EMMONS denied belligerent rights to the State, and held, therefore, that Gen. PILLOW and those acting with him must be held in the light of trespassers. The result was a verdict against Gen. PILLOW and Major J. J. MURPHY for the value of the coal. As the coal was taken for the State and used by the State, there can be no doubt that the State is morally if not legally bound to protect and defend the defendants in this cause, and save them harmless against any damages which may be imposed by the Federal Court.

The Late Samuel Morris Waln of Philadelphia.

From the Philadelphia Gazette, Dec. 23.

Another venerable Philadelphia merchant, SAMUEL MORRIS WALN, died yesterday morning, at his residence, No. 923 Walnut-street, aged sixty-three years, after a life spent in devotion to mercantile interests, with honor to himself and credit and benefit to the city of which he had been a distinguished ornament. His father, JACOB S. WALN, was one of our thorough merchants, and therefore his son received a good training for business as well as a good name and a regard for the general interests of the community. Being a sincere and useful member of the Society of Friends, he followed the example of many others thereof in devoting his leisure time and attention, as well as his means, to our public charities and benevolent institutions—being, at the time of his death, one of the managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, and of the Union Benevolent Association, as well as President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. His liberality toward these and all similar undertakings was uniform. For many years he was the American agent of the "Lloyds" underwriters, and subsequently in the shipping and commission business in the firm of S. MORRIS WALN & Co., who were largely engaged in the foreign trade, although of late years not engaged in active commerce. Their warehouses and wharves, on Delaware-avenue, near Walnut-street, have been known to trade for more than a quarter of a century. Mr. WALN amassed a large fortune in business, which he managed with shrewdness and ability, and used with public spirit. He was a director of the Insurance Company of North America, to the success of which great corporation he largely contributed

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, DEC. 25, 1870.

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The above have been the fixed advertising rates of the NEW-YORK TIMES for the past eight years, and will not be changed, although our circulation has largely increased during that time.

To Advertisers.

Advertisers in the TIMES are requested to bring in their notices at as early an hour in the day as possible. If received after 8½ o'clock, it will be impossible to classify them under their proper heads.

☞ For the accommodation of up-town residents, advertisements for insertion in the TIMES will be received at No. 54 West 32d-st., junction of Broadway and 6th-av., and at No. 40 East 18th-st., between Broadway and 4th-av.; also at No. 6 Astor-place, at same rates as are charged at office of publication.

☞ Messrs. DREXEL, HARJES & Co., Bankers, No. 3 Rue Scribe, Paris, are the accredited agents for the NEW-YORK TIMES in that city.

Notice.

We cannot notice anonymous communications. In all cases we require the writer's name and address, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We cannot under any circumstances return rejected communications, nor can we undertake to preserve manuscripts.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

The general situation is regarded as encouraging for the French. The reports of successful sorties from Paris to the North, South and East, and the capture of several strong Prussian positions, are confirmed; but there is no truth in the statement that the two divisions of the Army of the Loire have joined. Gen. FAIDHERBE has announced to the Ministry of War that his army engaged the enemy at Pont Nozelle on the forenoon of the 23d, and after fighting until six in the evening the Prussians were driven. For the greater portion of the time, he reports, it was an artillery duel, but the successful end was brought about by a brilliant charge of the French infantry along the entire line. A Brussels dispatch, however, by way of London, 23d, reports that the Prussians were surrounding the army of this General, and had occupied Suissons and Sissonne. Rouen has been almost entirely evacuated by the Germans. King WILLIAM telegraphed to the Queen, on Friday, his version of a recent French sortie. He states that it was prompted by the mistaken idea that a French army of relief was approaching; and he adds that many prisoners were taken by his soldiers, and that the sortie was entirely repulsed. The weather is intensely cold at and about Versailles.

Havre and Cherbourg are now strongly fortified. Several war vessels are riding at anchor before the cities, and all the land works are fully armed and supplied. Moreover, a French squadron has left Brest for Havre, and additional ships of war are getting in readiness for the same destination. The Prussians have left Dieppe, but are encamped in strong force near by. Balloon reports from Paris to the night of the 22d have been received. The journals in the city estimated the loss in the combats of the 21st at about 800 killed and wounded, and warmly praise the conduct of the National Guard. It is reported that the people of Rheims have risen in insurrection against the authority of the Prussian commander, and a force of 6,000 Saxons has gone from Versailles to restore order.

BISMARCK has formally notified the representatives of the North German Confederation at foreign courts that French officers are breaking their parole not to serve in the army during the present war, with the evident sanction of the French Government, and that consequently peremptory measures will be taken to stop this business. Four escaped French prisoners, surrendered by the Dutch to the Germans, have been shot, and M. CHADOURDY, in a diplomatic dispatch to the Hague announcing this, expresses his horror and indignation, and protests that the courage and misfortunes of the French soldiers give them a claim to hospitality among civilized constitutional States. Twenty-two French prisoners have escaped from Antwerp.

GENERAL EUROPEAN NEWS.

The question of the immediate removal of the capital to Rome is under discussion in the Italian Parliament....The Mont Cenis Tunnel will be completed in one or two days, according to the latest reports....The announcement is made in the Prussian Chambers that there will be no deficit in the finances of the monarchy for 1870 and 1871....A sculling-match between J GRIFFITH and H. THOMAS took place at Brentford, on the Thames, on Thursday, the former winning by five lengths.

GENERAL.

Severe weather is reported from all quarters. In some of the Southern States it is said to be the coldest within the memory of the inhabitants. Near White Sulphur Springs, Va., the mercury yesterday fell to 6° below zero, and four inches of ice were formed.

Continuous gales on the Northern Atlantic have thus far thwarted the efforts to repair the damaged cables, but the *Robert Lowe* is in position waiting for favorable weather to proceed with the work.

A fire occurred at Bangor, Me., yesterday, seriously damaging a building known as Bowman's Block.

The population of Ohio is 2,663,681.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Washington have refused the use of their hall to JOHN H. SURRATT to repeat his "lecture" in.

The coroner's investigation of the Hartford, Conn., accident, tends to show that Rev. Mr. STONE, who was killed, saw the approaching train, and that the engineer did his best to avoid the collision.

The case of Sheriff JACKSON, of Trinity County, Cal., which will be tried soon, is regarded with great interest, involving as it does important political questions. JACKSON has been indicted for collecting the foreign miners' tax from Chinese, in alleged violation of the Fifteenth Amendment.

Hon. JAMES WHITE, the oldest member of the Waldo County (Me.) bar, died suddenly yesterday.

LORENZO D. GARRETT, at Callamar, N. Y., on Friday night, murdered his father-in-law, JAMES C. TALLMAN, and then killed himself. The two had long been quarreling about some property.

The Southern Express Company was robbed on the 21st inst., near Pensacola, Fla.; $13,000 were stolen, $12,000 of which belonged to the United States Navy Department.

W. H. WISNER, son of a recent candidate for Governor in Tennessee, shot Mr. STAHLMAN, on Thursday evening, at Shelbyville, in that State, because he would not give him a receipt for a sum of money.

At the investigation, yesterday, in regard to the charge of official corruption made against the Controller, the two principal witnesses examined were Mr. KEMBLE, of the banking-house of JAY COOKE & Co., and Mr. KESSEN, a Wall-street broker. They testified that they had sold some of the City bonds at par, and a few of them at one-fourth of one per cent. above par. The case will be resumed on Tuesday.

The examination in the case of DAVID LEECH and THOMAS WARD, the steward and second mate, respectively, of the brig *Ellen O. Feeney*, who are charged with the murder of a sailor known as "Austrian Jack," was adjourned by Commissioner SHIELDS, yesterday, until Wednesday next, when it will be summed up by Hon. JOSEPH BELL, for the defense, and by Assistant District-Attorney PURDY, for the prosecution.

Christmas.

Although it is common to suppose that everybody is "merry" at this time of the year, or that it is our own faults if we are not, yet there are comparatively few homes in which annual holidays are not connected with recollections of a different kind. DICKENS has taught us to believe that the man who is not wild with happiness on Christmas Day must either have a very bad conscience, or be naturally a selfish brute, deserving only the contempt of his species. This theory does very well for "genial novels," but in real life it is sometimes found that Christmas is not always a specific against the adverse influences which beset most people, at some time or other of their lives. "We are such stuff as dreams are made of"—and few can boast that they have the power of enjoyment absolutely under their own control. But the duty of doing all that lies within our power to render others happy, and of being thankful ourselves for the mercies we enjoy, is incumbent upon us all, and is, perhaps, the best Christmas lesson we can receive or impart this morning.

"Peace on earth, good will to men," is the message which the preachers will truly tell us is associated with the day—but as we recede further and further from the day when it was first heard, its applicability to human affairs seems to diminish. The world is full of war and signs of war—no observer of the times can fail to see grave reasons for fearing that, dark as the year has been which is now drawing to a close, the next year threatens to be still more gloomy. If the circle of war does not expand, we may account it almost a miracle. Prussia and Russia seem resolved to draw other Powers into the vortex, and every indication points to the conclusion that the Christmas of 1871 will not arrive until Europe has been deluged afresh with blood. When England goes to war, it is difficult to see how she can avoid having this country also to face as an enemy. Privateers will be fitted out against her commerce, and she will be obliged to resent acts for which her own course between 1861 and 1865 furnishes too many precedents. Russia seems fully determined to have war with England, whether England wishes it or not, and on the day when it is declared scarcely any Government here would be powerful enough to prevent the equipment of *Alabamas*. All these auguries of evil may prove delusive—but any man with eyes in his head cannot fail to read them now. 1870 has been a memorable year, but the circumstances under which 1871 will open promise to render it like the years described in the prophetic books of Scripture, when the end of all things shall seem near, and the portents of the latter days fulfilled.

For peace in our own land we cannot be too thankful, nor for the assurance that war is not likely again to devastate our homes. In France and Germany, today, there are thousands of women and children waiting with anxious hearts for tidings of those whom they will never see again—wives mourning for husbands who are lying stiff and stark on some bloody field—in myriads of homes weeping eyes and breaking hearts. These horrors we, too, have known, but they are of the past, and God forbid that ever they should return to cast a shadow over the land! We cannot depend upon human wisdom or human progress to render war impossible—for both these constantly fail, and have, indeed, little substantial existence but in our own imaginations. The world is not much better than ever it was—human perfectibility is the wild and hopeless dream of an enthusiast. Cruelty, injustice, oppression, hate, lying—all prevail as much as they did in the days before the eternal truths of religion were revealed to mankind. War is as merciless as at any period in the sad and blood-stained history of the world—let the awful scenes of Bazeilles, of Strasbourg, of Ablis, of who can say how many other places, tell us whether it is so or not. There is no such thing as "perfectibility." We stumble on in the old footsteps which we see marked upon the shores of time, but are not wiser, and perhaps not happier than those who have gained the opposite shores before us. We know that there are causes at work which may wrap the whole world in war next year—and yet who is able to change or arrest these causes? How few even try to do it. The popular man is not he who cries "peace, peace"—it is he who, like Gen. BUTLER, clamors for war, and would make it on an invented pretext, if better reasons for it could not be found.

The two Christian festivals falling upon one day may perhaps lead some to calmer reflection. It may also incite many to perform the blessed duties of charity—to remember amid their abundance the thousands of our fellow-creatures for whom the world has gone roughly, and who find little to choose between the gloom of their future and the darkness of their past. The poor children, especially, ought not to be forgotten—for what have they done that the Spring of life should be poisoned at its source? Our appeal on behalf of the Children's Aid Society a few days ago, was liberally responded to by our readers, and we thank them for it—but the work is large, and there are many hungry and destitute crying for help. The Children's Aid Society, the Five Points Mission, (No. 61 Park-street,) the Five Points House of Industry, (No. 155 Worth-street,) the Newsboys' Home, (No. 40 Park-place,) and many other deserving charities, urgently need assistance. Do something for one or other of them today. These are among the acts—how few they are in the lives of the best and wisest of us!—which we shall look back upon without regret when our interest in the annual festivals of this world becomes a matter of retrospection.

The Greek Brigands.

The lovely countries of classic antiquity continue to be desolated by marauders whom no inducement will persuade to work, and no terrors deter from theft. In Lord BYRON'S day, the Greek excuse for brigandage was that the land was enslaved, and that there could be no encouragement for labor where there was no protection for its fruits. But independence, British protection from external foes, and constitutional government, appear alike ineffectual to put a stop to the habits of robbery that have become the chronic scourge of the soil which bore LYCURGUS and MILTIADES. The brigandage is not confined to the mountains, or even to the open plains. A Mr. PHILON was carried away, a few weeks ago, in broad daylight, from Livadia, which, next to Athens, is now the most important town of Continental Greece. He was obliged to pay some twelve thousand dollars for his release. This gentleman was actually taken through the streets, past and among crowds of peasants returning from their day's work, the brigands who had him in charge keeping up a noisy shouting to drown his cries. The party then proceeded along a public road that leads to Chæronea, crossed the bridge of the Cephissus, and slept at their ease within seven miles of Livadia. In the sequel the ransom was paid on Mount Helicon, which is within six miles of the same town—showing the powerlessness of the authorities either for restraint or punishment.

It would appear that when anything positive is done to chastise the thieves and assassins it is due to the Turks. They have captured KARAVIDAS, one of the band who murdered Mr. HERBERT, the English traveler, some time ago, and the trial is to take place in Thessaly. A European journal says that the Ottoman Government would have given up this offender to the Greek authorities, "but it was considered likely to be more conducive to the cause of truth that he should be examined before he fell under the influences that can be brought to bear at Athens in matters of brigandage." A fresh atrocity has, meanwhile, been reported in Arcadia. Some robbers, in accordance with their usual course, had made prisoner of a well-known and rich silk-merchant. Being pursued, and in danger of being overtaken, the miscreants cut and stabbed their captive, and left him in a dying condition on the road. Unlike the Italian brigands, who are often as good-natured and as courtly as *Fra Diavolo*, the Greek plunderers seem possessed of a spirit of malignity which impels them always to destroy or torture when they are disappointed in getting immediate booty. The descendants of the heroes of antiquity and the countrymen of MARCO BOZZARIS should be capable of putting an end to this wretched business. Beautiful, but most unfortunate, Greece is fast becoming a byword and reproach, not for bad government only, but for unpunished crime, and those who have her destinies in charge must take more energetic action than they have yet done if they would have the world to believe that their country is worthy of the place she once held, and assumes again to have taken, among the nations.

Karl Blind on French Resistance.

Among other fatal delusions, NAPOLEON III. cherished the belief that he could safely rely on the sympathies of South Germany in making war on Prussia. When the Republic was erected on the ruins of the Empire it was thought, with equal fallacy, that the German Democrats would straightway cease to support a war whose avowed object had been attained, and which, from that time, threatened the existence of a Government emanating from the people. National sympathies do, after all, override political theories, and "the parliament of man, the federation of the world," is much too distant an event to make its attainment a more desirable object than the more tangible and familiar prizes of a common patriotism. KARL BLIND is a democrat among democrats, a radical alike in politics and religion, and a species of fire-brand even beside the bold thinkers of German democracy. From such a man, if from any, the French republican leaders might have expected sympathy and encouragement. But BLIND, opposed as he is to all the existing forms of the monarchical rule of Fatherland, holds the great idea of German unity as the first point of his political and social creed, and believes, like others of his class, that this once secured, all the rest will follow in its own good time. His lately published article on "The Situation of France," gives such advice to the Provisional Government as BISMARCK himself might indorse. There is only this distinction, that, whereas the Federal Chancellor would be very well content to see Paris given up and France suing for peace, in order that the Republic might be proved a failure, the democratic writer counsels these things in order that the Republic may become a success.

KARL BLIND asserts that had France never possessed the ancient German provinces on the Rhine, she would never have coveted the rest of the left bank of that river. But he states an argument which may be used on either side, when he refers to the military Chauvinism which is fostered by the possession of subject provinces. If it be true, as French writers state, that Alsace and German Lorraine are as completely French in national sympathy as Champagne or Brittany, German democracy has just as much to fear from the resumption of the robberies of LOUIS XIV. as French liberty has suffered from their original acquisition. Of course, in this case, French republicans will have the satisfaction of knowing that the rectification of the German frontier will bring its own Nemesis. After all, the question is not exactly what any body of men should advise the French nation to do, but what the people, by their daily sacrifices, show a willingness to endure. The destinies of France are emphatically in the hands of the people, the nominal Executive being as limited in its powers as any national Administration could well be. Hopeless as every calm observer thinks the struggle to be, we cannot fail to see that there is a species of high treason involved in any step which would give a struggle up for lost while the nation loudly proclaims its ability to continue it. The legacy of suffering, exhaustion, and ruin which a contest so prosecuted will leave behind it, is dreadful to contemplate, but the French people may fairly enough argue that extinction is better than dishonor, and that a people which betrays its own cause, shuts itself out from the family of nations. As a question of mere policy KARL BLIND'S advice is as sound today as when it was written, some three weeks ago. Paris indeed holds out, only, however, to disprove for a little longer the rule that "a fortress invested is a fortress taken, unless the siege be raised by a relieving army." Three French armies keep the field, but only to be driven back from every position they occupy, and to be condemned to the task of merely harassing the rear of the Prussian hosts in their frequent changes of front. Yet mere policy has never become the ruling star of a great nation without leading to a decay of influence and self-respect. Conscious as we are, therefore, that France must bear a large share of the blame of keeping up a losing struggle, it is but just to remember that a good deal can be said on the other side.

The New Post-Office.

The report of Mr. MULLETT, the Supervising Architect, was bad enough, but the statements of Mr. HULBURD, superintendent of the building, are worse. Mr. MULLETT complained earnestly of the stoppage of the work produced by the exhaustion of the available appropriation, and he urged a departure from the limit originally fixed, adherence to which would render the upper part of the edifice destructible by fire. But he bade us hope, by an assurance that "the most difficult portion of the work has been completed in a highly creditable and satisfactory manner." Mr. HULBURD shows that half a million must yet be spent before the "sill course" be reached and the granite for the first story paid for—that at least four millions of dollars will be required to finish the building, under energetic and careful management—that this amount may be increased to five millions if the delays which have occurred in the past be repeated—and that, according to present appearances five years, instead of three, will probably be consumed in the work.

The conduct of Congress in the whole business has been discreditable and in the highest degree unwise. Having decided that a new Post-office is necessary, and having selected a site and plan, there should have been no further loss of time. Public convenience and the exigencies of the Government service alike demanded the earliest possible construction of the edifice. Instead of that we have had endless and vexatious delays. Doubt was cast upon the integrity of Government officials at the bidding of corrupt schemers and disappointed contractors. A long period was wasted by a House Committee, for no other purpose, apparently, than to find excuses for converting the work into a job. When it was no longer possible thus to retard operations, other devices were resorted to. Impracticable conditions were attached to appropriations, in themselves too small for the purposes required. We see the result. The work is suspended because of the restriction imposed by Congress. Months are wasted at a season which should have been turned to profitable account, and at least a million is added to the cost, beside prospective claims of contractors for the injury and injustice involved in the delay.

Nothing more scandalous can be imagined. This City needs a new Post-office, and the Government professes a desire to supply one. It incurs large expenditures, enters into heavy contracts, and creates obstructions in the very centre of the busiest portion of the City. And then Congress trifles with the whole affair—stops the work at pleasure, and starts again—and literally squanders hundreds of thousands of dollars by gross mismanagement. These proceedings would be intelligible if Tammany gave out the contracts. We should expect to see the rascalities of the new Court-house repeated. But Congress is in this instance the offender—a Congress which boasts of being economical, and affects a disposition to guard public interests! The New-York Post-office promises to be one of its scandals.

Italian Opera.

It will enliven the Christmas of many lovers of lyric music to know that a season of Italian opera has been decided on, and that its speedy opening at the French Theatre may be pretty confidently looked for. Opera is almost as uncertain as it is delightful, so that our qualification seems only a proper caution. We are, however assured that the operatic season will positively be given.

We trust that the projectors will have the good sense to take warning from repeated failures in the immediate past, and not to undertake their task at all until they are tolerably certain of doing it well. They may accept it as an inflexible fact that the public will turn their backs with great quickness and unanimity upon any inferior entertainment of this nature. The experiment has been tried so often of foisting either incapable artists, or inferior adjuncts, or more commonly both, upon public attention, that opera-goers are now extremely sensitive on the subject, and will by no means forgive any attempt at imposition. If the new management wish to succeed, or even to obtain a respectable hearing, they must offer what is really worth listening to, and must resolutely avoid the penny-wise policy of evading expense in the matters of chorus, orchestra, and other accessories.

The public of the Metropolis is just now anxious to hear Italian opera, and there has seldom been a better chance for success, if a manager has the knowledge and courage to deserve it. In the absence of these qualities, and of the capital which should back them, the enterprise had better be abandoned. We hope, however, to be able, in due time, to record that they have been forthcoming under circumstances that will give Italian opera a more durable niche among New York amusements than it has hitherto occupied.

A New-York Citizen's Christmas Dream.

A holiday sketch has just appeared which a Republican journal characterizes as "one of those brilliant *brochures* that often gladden us at unexpected moments with specimens of the seemingly inexhaustible riches of the brain of our versatile Mayor." Presuming that "the Congressman's Christmas Dream" is amply deserving of this copious supply of adjectives, we cannot avoid the reflection, how much better it would have been, had the Mayor developed the fine "ancillary" qualities of his genius by giving us, as a holiday treat, some air-woven fancies gracefully entwined around the mysterious future of the City Hall and its belongings, with casual references to the faintly outlined forms of future jobs that his mind's eye may dimly discern on this cheery Christmas morning. We have no more intention of endeavoring to supply this omission, than we have of completing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. But we may hastily sketch what might have been, when fully elaborated, a companion picture to the great original. Other men dream besides Congressmen and Mayors, and there is much matter, too, in their slumbering cogitations, could we only make them speak.

A citizen of a reflective turn of character was trying to relieve his mind, before our gladsome anniversary, of the cares that each day brings with it, and of the lurking sadness that attends a period when looking back seems more natural than looking forward. His thoughts went wandering through the tangled business of the year, and with a sort of automatic accuracy kept placing this item on one side, and that on another, of the annual balance sheet. As he went on, a vague wonder began to grow upon him at the portentous size of the account that under one shape or other had been exacted by our City fathers. "Is the play worth the candle?" thought our tax-payer in his reverie. Thereupon, his thoughts went on a new track, in quest of the return he had got for all this unconscionable quantity of cash. Exhausted by the fruitless quest, his thinking faculties began to flag; he fell into a dose, from that into a nap, and out of that emerged into dreamland. He found himself in a City that he knew to be Manhattan, but an altogether inexplicable change had come over it. There were many stores and buildings that he was familiar with, and he found no difficulty in recognizing the main lines of thoroughfare. But the people seemed to move about with a less preoccupied air than heretofore, there was less evident poverty, less squalor; and repeated examination of the various familiar corners failed to reveal the presence of their equally familiar loafers. Stores generally seemed to be doing a brisk business, and people went and came as if they had money to spend. Only the groggeries looked vacant and deserted, and not a single politician's portrait could be seen in any of their windows. Broadway appeared to have been newly swept, and neither litter nor merchandise incumbered the sidewalks. An exploration of some of the streets on either side convinced him that the era of pitfalls on the cart tracks had passed away, and that the foot passenger could safely take an observation of the clouds without incurring the risk of breaking his neck. He went to the Court-house, and could scarcely believe his eyes when he saw it completed. He looked on the broad steps, but failed to discern a single rivulet of tobacco-juice; he explored the lobbies, but found only people hurrying hither and thither with washed faces, and wonderfully deficient in the familiar odor of stale spirits.

Greatly wondering, he emerged into the outer air again and found men erecting a stately fountain, who absolutely perspired over their work, and seemed to be acting under the direction of an individual who seemed to understand the plans he held before him. There were laborers with spades and workmen with trowels; but long and earnestly as he watched, he failed to discover any one gazing vacantly at the opposite street, or calmly sitting down to enjoy the solace of a pipe. And yet the men seemed happy and contented, and cast no grudging glances at the swift progress of their work. Passing on, lest he should, after all, be mistaken, he once more faced Broadway, and there a fresh shock awaited him, for a stage, with a cleanly looking driver, stopped close to the sidewalk, until a lady passenger should alight, and though not a policeman was in sight, did not drive on till she was safely clear of the vehicle. Unable to endure the suspense any longer, he hurried to the Tax Commissioner's office, to see if that unchangeable department had yielded to the general transformation. He asked for last year's account, and a printed copy was put into his hands; he asked to see his own account with the City, and almost awoke with the start of surprise it gave him at seeing it duly posted and a ridiculously small sum debited to him for taxes. All aglow with gratitude, he rushed to the little glass box wherein Mr. NATHANIEL SANDS used to sit, but found its smiling occupant not the Secretary of the Citizens' Association. Proceeding to the Controller's office, he asked for Mr. CONNOLLY, but found that the only one of that name in the bureau was one of the messengers. Determined to relieve his mind, he hurried over to the Mayor's office, and, although it was past 3 o'clock by the City Hall dial, found it still open. He anxiously inquired for Mayor HALL, and was informed that his tenure of office had expired some time ago, but that his Republican successor was quite at his service. "I see it all!" said the dreamer, jumping out of his chair and his sleep at the same moment, —only to find that he had seen rather far ahead.

AMUSEMENTS.

Theatrical.

HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE PLAY-HOUSES.

Christmas-tide, with its seasonable frost and radiant sunshine, its good cheer and merry-making, finds the theatres doing a swimming business, and with good prospects of gaining a famous profit through the Holidays. At Wallack's "Coquettes" is to be repeated on Monday, the "Heir at Law" on Tuesday and Friday, the "School for Scandal" on Wednesday and Saturday, the "Road to Ruin" on Thursday, and the "Serious Family," for the last time this season, on New-Year's Eve. We are informed that "War," and not "Birth," is the new play by Mr. ROBERTSON, to be next brought out at this house. There has been no change of programme at Booth's, at Niblo's, at the Olympic, at Lina Edwin's or at Wood's, though a thorough reconstruction of the burlesque of "Paris," at the last-named house, has materially improved that bright and diverting spectacle....At the New-York Circus the production of the new Christmas spectacle has already been adverted to. The bills of the present week at all these places disclose no promise of novelty. Among the announcements, however, of entertainments elsewhere, we observe a formal manifesto concerning a brief season of Italian opera at the Fourteenth-street Theatre. The artists who have become associated for the season are Mme. CZILLAG and Signori LEFRANC, REYNA and SUSINI.

"SARATOGA" AT THE FIFTH-AVENUE.

The dramatic novelty of the past week has been the comedy of "Saratoga." This play, which is mounted with a sumptuousness characteristic of Mr. DALY'S management, is attributed, on the bills, to Mr. BRONSON C. HOWARD. As a work of art, it has, so to speak, a great deal of surface, not a little sparkle, and no depth at all. This perhaps might have been inferred from the decided and lively favor with which, on its first night, "Saratoga" was received. The audience first tittered, then chuckled, slipped gradually into cachinnatory volleys, and finally abandoned itself to positive roars of laughter. This is a very fine thing. To make people laugh is one of the proper functions of the stage. It does not, however, include all of them. The end might probably be attained, for example, by grinning through a horse-collar; yet no one could expect us to style such a performance a comedy. "Saratoga" is by no means so bad as that; but it certainly is not in any proper sense a comedy; and it as certainly resorts to means more effectual than praiseworthy to excite the mirth its author rightly deems is so important. This is, of course, to say that the piece is faulty, and this must be universally admitted. It has, notwithstanding, some rare merits. The author has the singular tact and perception to avoid long speeches, invariably to keep up the bustle of his action, and to end his scenes as well as his acts with climaxes which, if not always in the best taste, never fail to accomplish their purpose. We should like to feel sure that the actors on the first night did not adhere rigorously to the text. False grammar abounded on that occasion, and there was likewise a redundancy of slang of a sort not at all funny, for which we hope Mr. HOWARD is not responsible. Miss FANNY DAVENPORT, who has an unfortunate habit of turning young ladies into *soubrettes* —and rather flippant and slang whanging *soubrettes* at that—was, we regret to say, a notable offender in this respect. No doubt people of the new-rich class sometimes behave in the shockingly vulgar and repulsive way depicted by some of the characters in "Saratoga;" but we only look to see coloring of this sort in a play when the author clearly has intended it. If he manifestly designs given characters to be persons of average good breeding and education, and to occupy rather better than average social positions, we look to see something other in their representation than feeble copies of dandy shopmen or pert seamstresses.

Nothing, we well know, is more difficult to produce than an American comedy. It is hard to write, and by no means easy to act. Hardly any American comedy keeps the stage; although exceptionally good acting has often been energetically lavished upon attempts at such consummations. It is with us so far much the same with comedy as it is with fiction. Some notion of the cause is familiar to all thinking people. HAWTHORNE, in the preface to his *Marble Faun* suggests it as follows:

> "No author, without a trial, can conceive of the difficulty of writing a romance about a country where there is no shadow, no antiquity, no mystery, no picturesque and gloomy wrong, nor anything but a commonplace prosperity, in broad and simple daylight, as is happily the case with my dear native land. It will be very long, I trust, before romance-writers may find congenial and easily-handled themes, either in the annals of our stalwart Republic, or in any characteristic and probable events of our individual lives. Romance and poetry, ivy, lichens, and wall-flowers need ruin to make them grow."

It may be said that the extravagance and corruption that followed our civil war have furnished the "ruin" essential to the growth of parasite fiction and drama, yet we must own "it hath not appeared," and we can still enjoy the consolation offered by the author of *The Scarlet Letter*,—a romance, by the way, the mention of which makes HAWTHORNE'S preceding remarks appear paradoxical, since it contains just the mystery and antiquity, and picturesque and gloomy wrong, which he says in our happy land do not exist.

As regards "Saratoga," and to descend from generals to particulars, the attempt is purely and simply a five-act farce. But it is not necessarily less enjoyable for that reason, except when our attention is drawn to the fact that it presents itself as a comedy. It might as well be in three acts—and it might as well be in seven. The last act might as well begin the play as the first, and the first might as well end it as the last—and the same can almost be said about the scenes. In these respects "Saratoga" is something like the pieces of dramatic art offered from the rostrums of the negro minstrels. Coherency and probability always give way to fun, and if the spectator's attention is always "kept alive," it is certainly not by the interest or continuity of the plot. The description of the characters given by the play-bills is feeble stuff, but as the characters are not over-burdened with individuality, this, perhaps, makes no essential difference. There is, at all events, none of the disappointment that might arise if the word of promise cleverly set forth in the bills fell short in the attempted achievement.

We learn from the performance that Mr. DAVIDGE'S view of a New-York millionaire of 1870, precisely coincides with his notion of any of the old gentlemen devised by Mrs. SUSANNA CENTLIVRE, a hundred years ago, or by Messrs. HOLCROFT or MORTON, somewhat later. We are further instructed that young lawyers of the same City and period, are as like as two peas to the unmistakable cockney "city" man, who has never for more than a week or so at Ramsgate or Margate, been out of the sound of bow bells. If Miss DAVENPORT really resembles any one who would be called the "Belle of the Congress Parlors," we surely have never seen her prototype there. Mr. WHITING and Mr. HARKINS are possible beings. They are probable to the thinking, like what they counterfeit, might walk from the stage to the street or parlor, and pass for just what they are represented to be. Mr. PARKES has evidently made a profound study of English noblemen, and very cleverly fills out the author of "Saratoga's" brilliant photograph of him. Miss LINDA DIETZ is very good, indeed, as *Virginia*. We have not seen this spirited and promising young lady to such advantage before. She, too, is a conceivable personage. Being a pretty New-York girl, with some social tact and vivacity, she appears for precisely what she is. Considering her experience Miss DIETZ is doing admirably. She has remarkable ease and fluency, an attractive appearance, and will become, with study and work, a valuable acquisition to the stage. Both Miss MORANT and Miss MORRIS act parts in "Saratoga" that give strength to the cast without giving them the opportunities for effective display that their talents require. They, however, do well what if it were done ill might be calamitous. Mrs. WINTER plays one short scene with grace and intelligence, and Mrs. GILBERT does her best with another of the many bad parts. We take pleasure in repeating that "Saratoga" is good for plenty of hearty laughs, and that the author deserves credit for a species of dramatic skill very seldom shown in a first play. There is adroitness and talent for situation enough in the work to furnish excellent hopes for future success; and we hope that other desirable qualities will be equally conspicuous in the comedy which Mr. HOWARD should be encouraged to give us as his second essay.

Musical.

MLLE. AIMEE AT THE GRAND OPERA-HOUSE.

The brief notice which followed on Thursday, the first appearance of Mlle. AIMEE at the Grand Opera-house, recorded the good impression which the lady then made, and the partial effectiveness only of the whole performance of "Barbe Bleue." After-representations of this tuneful opera affirmed the favorable estimate of Mlle. AIMEE'S abilities, but disappointed, rather, our anticipations of a rehearsal of even moderate evenness. M. GAUSINS, who has abundant talent as a comedian, but sufficient voice, only, for the satisfactory execution of a few parts, cannot portray *Barbe Bleue*. M. DUCHESNE is vocally inadequate to the slight claims, even, of *King Bobèche*. Mlle. JULIA HACHE is a most uninteresting *Princess Hermia*, and Mlle. SUSANNE THAL an equally unsatisfactory *Queen Clementine*. M. HITTEMANNS, who represents *Prince Oscar*, is alone to be praised for enlarging the comic traits of the character, and for atoning for a lack of voice by animation and great liberality in novel stage business. So it comes that Mlle. AIMEE has borne the brunt of the combat since its inception. "Barbe Bleue" has had very slight success, but her efforts as *Boulette* secured for it all the attention it had. Her acting is full of spirit, and her singing is that of a person of musical sensibility and culture. We do not, of course, imply that gifts or studies of a high order are needed for the rendering of kindred rôles, but past experience has proven that an approach to excellence as a musician and an actress are always appreciated. We shall be glad, therefore, to listen to Mlle. AIMEE in works to the interpretation of which her associates are better fitted. The opportunity to do so, we belive, will not be long awaited; and meanwhile, if we cannot assign to the revival of "Barbe Bleue" a place among the successful entertainments of the present opera bouffe season, we shall, at least, remember it as a means of introduction to the public of a new and accomplished artist.

Home Intelligence.

Mr. LINGARD and Miss DUNNING were last reported at the Mobile Theatre....At McVicker's Theatre, Chicago, EDWIN ADAMS produced, on the 12th, the new play written for him by JOHN BROUGHAM, entitled "Honor." The play is in three acts, in which are presented the adventures of twin brothers, *Edwin* and *Francis Desborough*, gallant officers respectively of the English army and navy in the time of CHARLES II. A Chicago contemporary gives these points of the plot: "One is pictured as sedate, thoughtful, careful and brave; the other careless, merry, and equally daring, with a latent talent for acting in shrewd disguises. Upon this latter point hangs a great portion of the interest of the story. Wounded in a midnight duel with a plotting scamp, one *Sir Willoughby Raikes*, *Edwin* leaves for Italy, ostensibly to recover his health, but in reality to return to his native land in the character of an aged gypsy to block the pleasant little schemes of *Sir Willoughby*, obtain commensurate revenge, and straighten things out generally for a happy finale."....It is expected that Mr. W. R. FLOYD will soon become a partner of Mr. MCCULLOUGH in the management of the California Theatre....Mr. EDWIN BOOTH'S performances at the Walnut-street Theatre, in Philadelphia, were continued last week....The new theatre in Chestnut-street had been opened to the public...."Romeo and Juliet," with Mrs. SCOTT-SIDDONS and Mr. THORNE, was acted at the Chestnut-street Theatre on Monday....It is understood that Mr. ALBERT LAWRENCE has ended his connection with the English Opera Troupe. ....The English Opera Troupe was in Boston last week....Mr. J. E. OWENS acts in Terre Haute four nights this week. The new opera-house in that place will be first tenanted by him. It is located at the corner of Main and Fourth streets, and the cost of ground and structure has reached $165,000....Several artists lately connected with the New-Orleans Varieties are now acting in Mobile....Wednesday, Mme. SEEBACH acted in Louisville....Mr. EMMETT was last week at McVicker's Theatre, in Chicago....An old play-goer supplies the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican* with some reminiscences. He says: "From 1850 to 1859 I kept a theatrical journal, which contains quite an accurate record of the business of the New-York theatres for nine years. The standard of dramatic taste was much lower then than now, for there has been a steady and rapid improvement. During this time, the 'Lady of Lyons' was played 68 times, 'Macbeth' had 110 representations. 'Othello' 108, 'Hamlet' 105, 'Merchant of Venice' 101, 'Richard III.' 91, 'Much Ado' 93, 'As You Like It' 83, 'Midsummer Night's Dream' 89, 'Lear" 48, 'Romeo and Juliet' 41. From 1850 to 1860 we had a lot of callow debutants. Then, too, we were subject to what WILLIAM FRY used to call 'annual incursions of the Visigoths.' Western actresses had a bewildering habit of bursting upon us in dog days with *Evadne* and *Pauline*, *Bianca* and *Julia*. Notably JULIA DEAN and ELIZA LOGAN were princesses of these wild tribes. ELIZA was an elder sister of the OLIVE. And I will here mention, respectfully, (as I do not wish to be dealt with,) that the first time I saw OLIVE LOGAN, she was doing the '*leg* business,' which she has since so spicily denounced in others. It was a performance of the 'Comedy of Errors,' February, 1857. The PLACIDES played the two *Dromios*, and OLIVE and LIZZIE WESTON were the *Antipholi*. As this was my first, it was also my most considerable, view of OLIVE LOGAN. It was before French paddings and shapes had put all figures upon equality; but OLIVE did not need them, for she was a handsome boy all by herself."....The new Titusville Opera-house is located in Spring-street, is provided with a stage 45 feet deep and 51 feet wide, will accommodate 1,500 persons, and cost about $40,000. It was to have been opened last week....Mr. MCKEE RANKIN and Miss KITTIE BLANCHARD are reported in California....Mrs. LANDER was, last week, in Albany. ....Friday, THEODORE THOMAS and Miss MEHLIG were in Albany....Miss KELLOGG was last week in Louisville....Miss NILSSON was last week in Chicago. It is well-nigh needless to note that her success was unbounded, and that no incident occurred to render her sojourn in the city aught but a pleasant one. The longest stay, next month, will be made in Cincinnati, where concerts are promised for Jan. 23, 25, 27 and 28.... Miss LUCILLE WESTERN was last week at the St. Louis Olympic....IDILLA MAURER, a Chicago actress, who, in 1869, wedded JOHN MAURER, better known as John Dillon, now acting at Aiken's Museum, in Chicago, has sued her husband for divorce and alimony....Miss MAGGIE MITCHELL appears in Montgomery, Ala., to-morrow.... Mme. JANAUSCHEK has just commenced an engagement in Louisville....Mr. W. H. POPE recites "The Black Prophet" at the Washington National Theatre to-night....Mrs. MACREADY, a new dramatic reader, is now in this City.

Foreign News.

BOUCICAULT'S NEW PLAY.

We reproduce from the London *Echo* a review of the new play just acted at the Holborn Theatre. The *Echo* critic says: "During the famous discussion that took place in the Press on the propriety of 'Formosa,' Mr. BOUCICAULT published a rather sarcastic letter, in which he said that the best proof of the suitability of the production was its indubitable success. It was a new course he had commenced, but the failure of legitimate drama had driven him to it, and now that he had entered on it, he meant to keep the thoroughfare open. In 'Jezebel' he has kept his word. A more satanic character than the heroine of this new play has never been presented to the English public. For the creation of the character Mr. BOUCICAULT is not, indeed, responsible. It is found in a work by M. MASSON, from which the subject of the first and second acts of the drama is taken. *Mme. D'Artigues*, whom we find the mistress of a comfortable mansion in Bourdeaux, has strange antecedents. From a narration to her brother *Palma*—a Mexican vagrant—we learn that, after having lived as an adventuress in South America, where she has entrapped a rich man into marrying her, she flies to Europe in the suite of a certain heiress. A wreck favors her ambitious hopes. The heiress is lost, the adventuress assumes the name and valuables, and, having arrived at Bourdeaux, commences a brilliant career. *George D'Artigues*, a young merchant, to save the credit of his firm, marries her for her wealth. Under the shelter of his name she intrigues and gambles till he, grown indignant, seeks out and kills in a duel her paramour. Before she knows the fate of her guilty lover, she attempts to poison her suspicious husband, who by accident perceives her in the act of dropping poison into his wine-glass. Dissembling his horror, the husband changes his glass unseen by her, and deceives her by tossing off what she believes to be the poison. Then he tells her that he has seen her attempt, but that the poison is too late, for her lover is dead already. When she has recovered from the swoon into which this intelligence flings her, she learns from a friend of her husband that he is dead, and that she, his poisoner, can only escape the law by taking ship at once to South America. In the second act, which takes place at a South American seaport, *Mme. D'Artigues* learns that her husband, whom she supposed poisoned, is alive and married to the niece of an old sea captain, whom she meets accidentally, and who hearing her call herself by a name which he believes none but his niece has a claim to, attacks her for sailing under false colors. Her knowledge, however, of *D'Artigues'* antecedents so puzzles him that he can only reconcile matters by supposing that this adventuress has once been *D'Artigues'* mistress, and has adopted his name. Utilizing the information gained, this horrible woman proceeds to Europe, and descends like a thunderbolt, blasting the happiness of her husband's second wedlock. All was bliss before she appeared. Her husband, never dreaming that she, tainted with murder, would reappear, had married his first love, and a babe was the happy offspring of the marriage. The adventuress comes to overturn all this, and has almost succeeded when, to every one's inexpressible relief, her own first husband turns up to prove that her marriage with *D'Artigues* was secondary and invalid. As *Jezebel*, with a cry of recognition, shrieks, 'My husband!' at the new apparition the curtain falls, leaving every one to suppose that she gets her deserts as a matter of course. The piece has the merit of great rapidity of action, powerful characters, wonderfully good situations, and great scope for good acting. It was a genuine, though not an enthusiastic success. Its popularity might be doubted, for it lacks sensation scenes of the practical description. Miss KATHARINE RODGERS was an able delineation of this fiendish personage. *D'Artigues* was well acted by Mr. NEVILLE. The tenderness of the second wife was beautifully portrayed by Miss FOOTE; while Mr. PARSELLE impersonated the sea captain with all his usual discrimination."

THE LATEST FIASCO.

Concerning the "damned" play at the Globe Theatre, in London, we quote the critique of the *Standard* newspaper. It runs thus: "A new play, designated in the bills as an 'original comedy in four acts, entitled "Ecarte,"' was produced at this house on Saturday evening, the author, with commendable modesty, and, as the result proved, with a still greater share of discretion not always falling to the lot of dramatic aspirants, preserving his *incognito*. We will no attempt to give our readers any outline of the action of 'Ecarte,' which would, in fact, be a task impossible to the most acute intellect. It is true that, if all who were present had been furnished with the 'printed prologue'—if we may use the term, for it was not acted—and the explanation of the four acts, that they might possibly, by a considerable stretch of the imagination, have had some idea of what was going on, but to the majority of the audience, who were not thus favored, the action of the piece must have realized to their minds nothing but hopeless and inextricable confusion. They must have 'remembered' a mass of things, but nothing distinctly. From first to last there was an utter absence of even the most primary elements of dramatic construction, entrances without meaning, and exits devoid of motive, in conjunction with dialogue which only served to increase the intensity of the mental fog in which the spectators were enveloped. The *tableaux* were weak, and each was received with increasing disfavor, the climax being attained at the conclusion of the fourth act, when Miss ALLEYNE was injudiciously tempted to pointedly address the audience, thus rousing their antipathies to the highest pitch. At times the invidious positions of the performers entitled them to sympathy, which the house seemed inclined to accord, but other collateral circumstances were too powerful, and shouts of derisive laughter greeted their efforts. The two scenes which illustrated the comedy were excellent—notably a charming bit of rural painting, which may, probably, be utilized to better effect on some future occasion. If the managers of the Globe desire to retain the prestige which the house has hitherto borne, they would do wisely to withdraw 'Ecarte' from the bills at once. The popularity which is so essential to success will inevitably suffer in proportion to the number of times which it is repeated."

MISCELLANEOUS MENTION.

On the occasion of Mme. CELESTE's final performance in London previous to retirement from the stage, Mrs. KEELEY will reappear in her original character, *Betsy Baker*. Mme. CELESTE herself performs *Miami* in the "Green Bushes;" and in the evening will deliver a farewell address. Mr. BUCKSTONE will play *Box*....Mrs. FRANK MATTHEWS is seriously ill, an attack of paralysis having completely prostrated her....Mr. T. ROBERTSON has sufficiently recovered in health to attend to the rehearsal of his new piece for St. James' Theatre, entitled "War"....The Christmas programme at the Gaiety Theatre was to include a version of "The Cricket on the Hearth," by Mr. BOUCICAULT, in which Mr. TOOLE and Miss FARREN will appear, and a new opera burlesque by HERVE, "Aladdin II."....Under the title of "Found Drowned," a dramatized version of Mr. CHARLES DICKENS' *Our Mutual Friend* was to be produced on Boxing night at the Opera Comique. The scenery is painted by Mr. CALCOTT, and the cast includes the names of Mr. G. F. ROWE, (who has dramatized the novel,) Mr. JOHN NELSON and Mr. SAM. EMERY....The London *Figaro* asks: "Are the earnings of our popular playwrights as large as commonly reported? In the case of Mr. DION BOUCICAULT, heard on Saturday, in the Bankruptcy Court, it was stated that the total liabilities were £32,480; but it appears that proofs for £18,000 only were admitted against the estate. Yet, notwithstanding this reduction, the first dividend was only ¾d. in the pound. However, a further dividend of one shilling in the pound is promised to the fortunate creditors."....No "Westminster Play" is to be acted this year. No similar break in the annual celebration of the Latin comedy in the dormitory of St. Peter's College has occurred since 1847....The London *Figaro* gossiper says: "The devilish railway has placed its cruel iron paw on another victim, and deliberately murdered an excellent artist. I can imagine how sincere was the sorrow in many a household, when the intelligence arrived of the death of FREDERICK YOUNGE. This capital actor first appeared in London as the *Sergeant*, in Mr. T. W. ROBERTSON's play called 'Ours,' at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, and at once became famous. His greatest success, however, was as *George D'Alroy*, in 'Caste,' a character which he played with genuine manliness and unaffected vigor. It was, indeed, *the* performance of the play, for it was the most difficult character admirably played. Since the original days of 'Caste,' Mr. YOUNGE has been traveling about from town to town in the provinces, doing excellent business with a company framed for the express purpose of giving justice to Mr. ROBERTSON's comedies. Actively engaged in this good work in the provinces, he met with his death at the recent railway accident, when in the prime of life and full of vigor. It is no secret that Mr. ROBERTSON and Mr. YOUNGE were 'boys together;' and directly the first-named gentleman was in a position to do his old school-fellow and companion a good turn, he (knowing his worth) brought him up to London, and was instrumental in his winning a first success. But this is all over now. The curtain has fallen, and the play has come to an abrupt termination. A more unaffected and simple gentleman than FREDERICK YOUNGE I never met; and let me, in all sincerity, deposit, with the rest, my wreath of sorrow upon his grave. He has done fine work, and his loss is one which will be felt as much by the public as by his immediate and affectionate friends."....The London papers record the fact that in the Court of Exchequer the case of WALL *vs.* SWANBOROUGH has been heard before Mr. Baron MARTIN. The report continues thus: "The plaintiff is an American theatrical manager and the defendant is the lessee of the Strand Theatre. The plaintiff had entered into an agreement with Miss ELISE HOLT, a burlesque actress, whereby he was to pay her a certain fixed salary, and he was to procure engagements for her, making what profit he could out of the transaction. By an agreement between the plaintiff and the defendant, dated the 15th of June last, it was arranged that Miss HOLT should perform at the Strand Theatre for a period of one month at a salary of £15 per week, and that at the end of that period the agreement was to be renewed if both parties chose. Under the agreement Miss HOLT performed the part of *Lord Darnley*, in the burlesque called 'The Field of the Cloth of Gold,' with success, and, according to plaintiff's case, at the end of the month a new verbal agreement was entered into between himself and the defendant, whereby he was to give his services, as well as those of Miss HOLT, for a period of five weeks, for a joint salary of £20 per week. Owing to various circumstances, the performances at the Strand ceased to draw, and the theatre was temporarily closed on the 22d of July. The defendant, having paid one week's joint salary, refused to pay any more, and the action was brought to recover £80 as the balance due for the remaining four weeks' salary under the verbal agreement. The defense was that no such verbal agreement as that alleged by the plaintiff had been entered into. A notice stating that it was the intention of the lessee to close the theatre had been put up in the green-room, in accordance with the custom of the profession. His Lordship, in summing up, thought it was for the jury to determine whether or not the alleged verbal agreement had been entered into, and whether the plaintiff was entitled to any, and, if so, what amount of damages. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, with £40 damages."....The Committee of the Royal Academy of Music, intend, at the Christmas examination of 1871, to give a valuable Cremona violin as a prize to the most meritorious student of that instrument who has been a pupil in the institution during the three preceding terms....Mme. MOSCHELES has announced a prize of considerable value, to be competed for at the Conservatory of Leipsic, in memory of her husband the late Professor, who took such a lively and life-giving interest in that excellent music school....Herr RICHARD WAGNER'S "Beethoven eine Festrede zu dessen Hundertjahriger Geburtsfeier," written to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of BEETHOVEN's birthday, and which has been for some time expected, was announced by E. W. FRITZSCH, of Leipsic, as ready for publication at the end of November....The birthday of LISZT has been celebrated at Szégszard, his native town, with much rejoicing. He was serenaded and banqueted.

CHRISTMAS IN INDIA.

How the Cheery Holiday is Celebrated There—Queer Customs—Gifts Exchanged as Here—Christmas Calls of State.

At last real old-fashioned Christmas weather is upon us, crisp and clear air, and the earth, outside the City, at least, is covered with a vesture of snow, appropriate setting for the holly-berries and plum puddings of Yuletide. Far different are the accompaniments in the torrid East. The Christmas fare is there, but the exile yearns in vain for the Christmas weather. The fervid clime, parching heat, artificially tempered by air-wheels and gigantic fans waved by swarthy attendants, are discordant elements and sorry substitutes for the glowing hearth and family greetings of a Northern home.

THE AMERICAN COLONY.

India is rather a *terra incognita* to Americans, but there are a few there, and it may be interesting to note how they get on as aliens among the alien conquerors of gorgeous Hindostan. The few citizens of the United States domiciled in India can almost be counted on one's fingers. The agents of the Tudor Ice Company; two or three enterprising manufacturers and shippers of coir rope and matting, who, by utilizing the refuse of the cocoa-nut husks, which after all the rope is made used in India, still yields a large surplus of material that would be wasted but for them, who have hit on a "placer," and are quietly and unostentatiously amassing fortunes in that land of cheap produce and cheaper labor; and last, but not least, the members of the American Medical Mission, comprise the entire colony. These last, devoted men, physicians for body and soul, in this double capacity get readier access to the bigoted and benighted masses of the population, and have achieved a success, in spite of their small number, that dwarfs the efforts of the proselytizers of the numberless sects in the same field. The name of SCUDDER is a household word in Southern India, from Cape Comorin to the summit of the beautiful Neilgherries, or Blue Mountains—that Paradisaical oasis which rises from the scorching plains. On "the Hills," as they are emphatically called, indeed, a flavor of home Christmas may be recognized. Fires are welcome, and a white frost not unfrequently adorns the pastures in the early morn or the dewy eve; but the work of most of these reverend laborers lies amid the heat and toil below.

THE DAY A GRAND OCCASION.

Christmas is a great day with all India, heathens, Turks, Jews and Infidels. Languid by nature, pleasure loving by education, no occasion for a holiday comes amiss, and Christian feasts are heartily adopted by those who would not hand a dying Christian a drink of water. Moreover, there is a vast Catholic section of the community, especially round the centres of ancient Portuguese conquest. There, churches at every mile, and crowds of earnest preachers, natives and propagandists from Rome, with Bishops innumerable, serve to leaven the masses around them, with the idea that Christmas is in some inexplicable way a grand occasion, and they improve it accordingly, and after the fashion of the country, with an acute eye to the main chance. For several nights before the holy day, bands perambulate the streets, and make night hideous with the dulcet strains of pthawing, dulcimers, sackbuts, and all kinds of anything but music, exasperating the nerves of the weary, heat-beaten slumberer.

ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.

Early on Christmas morning his waking eyes are greeted by floral decorations, adorning every available post of vantage in the house, exhaling odors not suggestive of Araby the blest; flowers—yellow, waxen, fading into unpleasant dust, strew the floor, banana trees chopped off bodily close to the ground, spread their leafy drapery round pendulous branches of ripening fruit across the lintels and thresholds of every door, and beyond are paraded detachments of servants and retainers of every kind, shop-keepers and merchants, every one with whom knowingly or unknowingly he has had anything to do with in the course of the past, or may have to come in contact with during the ensuing year. These all bring gifts according to their means and expectations, with profound obeisances, the humbler limes, for which they expect a *quid pro quo* in the shape of a half dollar; those more ambitious bring their limes gilt with the best Dutch metal to the ineffable stickiness and discomfort of the recipient, alike expecting a donation "what master please." The butler brings a cake gorgeously iced, the baker another, the butcher a piece of meat, and so on other household gentlemen mark their lively gratitude for future favors by dishes of fruit and abominable sweetmeats, which are duly admired and handed away to be devoured by the nurses and dressing-maids. Native gentlemen of higher degree gradually drop in to pay their respects, gorgeously attired, driving up in stately fashion in bullock carts drawn by diminutive cattle, or bestride little, shambling, bony ponies, hidden with tawdry housings, they dismount while yet afar off, and, slipping off their slippers, slide and bow at intervals, till, reaching the expectant host, they enwreath him with collars of pungent flowers and gracefully accept the chairs formally tendered them. Here they smilingly sit, and sententiously, amid intervals of dead silence, remark on the price of rice, the value of rupees, and such-like novel topics, till, after a decent period, the person honored by their complimentary presence, very much exhausted by the intellectual efforts required to keep pace with their conversation, politely signifies that they may depart, which they do gravely, wending their joyful way to other people, with more wreaths and similar amenities. Presently their servants appear, bearing dishes of curry, pillaus, sweetmeats, &c., some eatable and nice, most profoundly nasty, which go the way of the majority of the presents, to the domestics, who revel for days on these tangible proofs of their masters' prosperity and popularity—synonymous terms among Orientals.

THE DAY'S OBSERVANCES.

All this time, from daybreak, bells have been tolling, and now appear processions from some of the many Catholic churches, with music and fantastic dance, a religious Saturnalia, accompanied by black priests bearing black virgins, a conciliatory sop to the susceptibilities of the people. At last, freed from visitors, while the servants wrangle over the spoils, the white people may go and bathe and dress, unite in family prayer, and proceed to their own places of worship. After that, they may overhaul photographs and think of the originals thousands of miles away, and of the happy time to come, if fever and liver spare them, when they may look back through the mists of memory on their Christmas in the East.

The Seizure of the Grenada—What the Canadians Assert.

From the Montreal Gazette.

OTTAWA, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1870.

I have learned that the American schooner *Grenada*, seized some time ago by the revenue cruiser *Ida*, and whose seizure is described in the Washington press dispatch, of yesterday, as a wanton and unprovoked outrage, was so seized by an officer of the Customs of Canada, for having engaged in the coasting trade between various parts of Nova Scotia in direct violation of the British Imperial Statutes regulating the coasting trade, and having on board also in these ports, unreported, a variety of dutiable goods, such as India rubber boots, kerosene oil, tobacco and spirits, and, in fact, carrying on a kind of trade in Canadian trade, from which the American Government jealously and rigidly exclude Colonial vessels in their ports.

NOTES FROM THE PEOPLE.

Mr. Bergh Protests against the Clipping of Horses.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals most feelingly and impressively invites the humane consideration of all persons owning horses to the cruel and disastrous practice of clipping and singeing them.

In the hope that this inhuman custom may receive the condemnation which it merits, the undersigned respectfully subjoins a few authorities on the subject:

MAYHEW, in his great work, says, "clipped or singed horses are thereby rendered susceptible to many terrible disorders. Any internal organ may be acutely attacked, because the perspiration has, by exposure of the skin, been thrown back upon the system." Scientific men have long known that the skin and the lungs are joined in one and the same function; and yet this senseless custom is becoming daily more general, and that, too, at the very period of the year when nature manifests her wisdom by providing the animal with additional covering; and mankind put on their furs and overcoats. But the groom protests that "it is impossible to dry a thick-coated animal;" that is, without expending more of that physical attention, for which he is paid, than he desires to bestow.

To illustrate the effects produced by a thick, wet covering, and by a thin, wet envelope, MAYHEW relates the result of a very simple experiment, which the reader may, without much trouble, institute for himself: "Obtain two bottles. Wrap one closely in several layers of calico; around the other fix only a single, tightly-fitting covering of the same fabric. Saturate the cloths of both bottles with water; also fill the interior of each with the same liquid. Renew the moisture to the two coverings as either becomes dry. After twelve hours test the temperature of the contents poured from either bottle. That from the thickly-covered (which may remain wet) vessel will be unchanged, or warmer for its confinement; that contained within the thinly-protected inclosure (which, possibly, shall be quite dry,) will be cold, very cold—so cold that, in warm climates, water is thus rendered a refreshing draught. Nay, the hotter the medium to which the bottles have been exposed, the colder will be the temperature of the thinly-coated liquid.

Now, the stable is always a heated medium. The animal with a thick coat is represented by the vessel with a thick encasement, the contents of which are not chilled by the moisture which saturates its envelope. The clipped steed is represented by the bottle thinly enfolded, the liquid within which became cold. But it may be urged the clipped horse is never moist. Then perspiration must be checked and fever must be present, for during health the pores of the skin are never inactive. Where the coat is removed superficial perspiration, accompanied with constant evaporation, must always be taking place. Where the hair is thick moisture naturally accumulates, because the covering prevents superficial evaporation, and thereby checks the operating cause of internal frigidity." YOUATT, another high authority says: "As to the practice of clipping and shaving the horse, it occasions chilling of the frame, exhaustion of vital power, and dangerous reactions of fever." MCEACHERN, the distinguished veterinary surgeon of Montreal, Mr. PENTON and Mr. PRENDERGAST, and I may add, every educated practitioner here and wherever the stupid and heartless custom prevails, condemn it in most unequivocal terms.

A few reflections and I am done. Whence emanated this merciless practice? I answer, from the brain of a lazy, indolent groom or coachman; who, in order to escape the use of the curry-comb and brush, persuades his master to have all the hair removed from his faithful servant's body! As a rule, the aversion of these persons to work is as patent as their violent treatment of the defenseless creatures placed in their power. Go into almost any stable and notice the sudden starting of the horses at the approach of the groom or coachman; observe these men when driving through the streets, or when the horses are standing quietly near the sidewalks, how they lash the unoffending creatures. Notice the two iron bits in the horses mouths, the chains under their jaws, the check-rein, drawn so short as almost to deprive the animals of the power of locomotion; and, finally, the recent infernal machine, called a "burr," with its thirty or forty nails sticking into the tender flesh of their victims' jaws! All, or nearly all, of which, and others, are the drivers' invention.

The undersigned has assured himself that in the majority of cases, the ladies and gentlemen owning these tortured dumb slaves are wholly ignorant of these facts, or else err from want of reflection. Ladies, will you not, while wrapped in your warm and costly furs, give a thought to the beautiful and generous creatures which await your coming in the bleak and wintry wind, and forbid this stripping off of nature's covering, a practice which ministers only to the indolence of your well-paid groom? A horse thus shorn, as MAYHEW says, is a deformity—the color is unnatural, the coat is dull and stubborn, looking most unlike that polished surface which is native to the beautiful quadruped.

Respectfully, HENRY BERGH, President.

Homes and Home Comforts for Our Young Men.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

The important truths contained in the TIMES, in your issue of 24th inst., entitled, "Our Young Men," should have been written in italics. The business men of our City, while they so generously remember the poor, and the many institutions of charity in our midst, must devote more time and give more serious attention to the welfare of the young men in their counting-houses and offices. The system of apprenticeship has mostly disappeared, and with it, I fear, the feeling of responsibility which existed in the principal to see that the wants of the apprentice were attended to. That noble institution, the Young Men's Christian Association, corner of Twenty-third-street and Fourth-avenue, has stepped into the gap, and with its lectures, concerts, gymnasium, and delightful reading and conversational rooms, does much to encourage and befriend the young men of New-York. But is not the difficulty deeper, and the remedy needed more radical, than any which has yet been reached?

Man is social in his nature, it is often said, and the keepers of bar-rooms and dance-houses, feeding on that craving for companionship, are drawing out the very life and breath of the present generation. But man's delight in society is but the superficial manifestation of the deep longings of the heart for sympathy. This it is which, in a well-regulated community, leads to married life; and where society is disturbed and unnatural, we have, from the same cause, the degradation of woman and the moral and physical ruin of both sexes. Legislators may strive as they will to do away with or mitigate the evils of concubinage, but they will not succeed unaided by the capitalist. Our rich men must become not only sound political economists, but the lovers of their race, instead of themselves, before the reform so needed can be brought about. Young men must be allowed to enjoy the sweet solace of married life and of home comforts if you would make them good citizens.

Higher salaries will not always remedy the evil though a step in the right direction, but cheap living may. And, though the greatness of the population, and the small area of land at our command, is a great obstacle in the way of accomplishing this much to be desired end, yet we feel that in the "apartment system," now so popular, is offered a practical solution of the problem. Thus, under one roof, warmed by one heating-apparatus, and even cooking and washing in a common kitchen and laundry, families may enjoy the privacy of domestic life, and all this at reasonable rates and in central localities.

I would recommend those who are interested in these questions to examine the various plans of the buildings now being constructed on Fifth-avenue and the other parts of the City. I will not enter into the details of this interesting subject, but earnestly commend it to the careful consideration of our sound practical business men.

A Correction.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Your issue of the 21st inst., reporting the recent decisions in the Court of Appeals, from the dispatch to the Associated Press, contains numerous errors. Among others, the case of TOWNSEND, respondent, *vs.* GILSEY, appellant judgment was reported as affirmed, whereas the judgment was reversed. Yours, &c.,

N. A. CHEDSEY, Att'y for Appellant.
No. 6 CITY HALL-PLACE, NEW-YORK, }
Thursday, Dec. 22, 1870. }

THE SKATING CARNIVAL.

Condition of the Lakes at the Central Park and at Prospect Park—Skating at the Jersey City Rink.

The Department of Public Parks issued an announcement, yesterday, mentioning that if the weather continues cold and fair today the lovers of skating will have an opportunity to enjoy the exhilarating pastime at the lakes at the Central Park to-morrow. The water at both lakes has frozen rapidly, and is at present in fine condition. The Park Commissioners have issued the following regulations, to go into effect on Monday:

CENTRAL PARK SKATING REGULATIONS.

Visitors will pass on the ice by the paths and gangways provided for that purpose.

Use the foot-scrapers on the gang-plank, before stepping on the ice.

Do not drop tobacco, cigar-stumps, paper, nut-shells, or other articles on the ice or gangways.

Avoid crowds. Ice is liable to crack, even when it is thick, and if persons crowd on one side of a cake of ice, it may suddenly tip and endanger the lives of all those upon it.

Do not go near the men engaged in cleaning the ice. Cautions from a park-keeper should be immediately complied with.

The want of civil attention, or the charging more than the prescribed rates at the refreshment, chair or skate houses, should be reported to a park-keeper.

Incivility or want of attention on the part of a park-keeper may be reported to the Captain of the park-keepers, to the Superintendent of the Central Park or to the undersigned.

A ball will be hoisted to the top of the flagstaff of the old Arsenal in the Park, whenever the ice is in a fair condition for skating on either the lake or the pond, and on the flagstaff at Mount St. Vincent when the ice on Harlem Lake is in a condition for skating. The national flag will be set on the flagstaff at the ladies' cottage, at the pond, and at the south beach of the lake, and at the cottage at Harlem Lake, whenever persons can go upon the ice with safety, or skate without seriously injuring it.

A red flag hoisted on the flagstaff indicates that it is dangerous to go upon the ice. It will not be displayed unless there is an absolute necessity that the ice be cleared.

These regulations are prescribed with the design of placing such restrictions only as are necessary for the preservation of the ice in the best condition for the general enjoyment, and it is hoped that they may be so willingly observed by all that a resort to other measures to secure their observance will not be required.

Should the cold weather continue skating at the Prospect Park ponds will begin Monday. The ice has been in fine condition for several days, although not sufficiently firm to warrant immediate use. The pond covers an area of some twenty acres.

A large assemblage gathered at the Jersey City Rink last evening, to inaugurate the season of '70. The Jersey City Skating Club made their *début* on the occasion, and their neat gold badge and uniform cap attracted the attention of many spectators.

WALCOTT, the inimitable character skater, TOTTEN, JOHN ENGLER, Jr., FRANK SWIFT, S. H. JONES, Jr., Prof. BRADY, and all of the Jersey City Club, were present. The club-room of the Club was handsomely decorated with evergreens and holly.

Rutherford Park Hotel Destroyed by Fire—Loss $110,000.

The hotel at Rutherford Park, New-Jersey, was completely destroyed by fire yesterday morning. The building was owned by Messrs. KNAPP & MCPHERSON, and was comparatively new. Few boarders were in the hotel at the time, it having been built principally as a place of Summer resort. The building was frame, 200 feet front by 40 in depth, and three stories high. So rapidly did the fire burn that the inmates of the house had barely time to escape, some of them being obliged to jump from the windows in order to save their lives, and others descending by ladders which were extended to them. The flames were first discovered issuing from beneath the porch in front of the building, and were supposed to have been started by an incendiary. The building cost over $90,000, and was furnished at an expense of not less than $20,000, having capacity for nearly 300 guests. The loss is only partially covered by insurance.

California's Latest Discovery—A Living Creature Imbedded in Petrified Wood.

From the San Francisco Bulletin, Dec. 17.

A curious reptile was discovered, about three weeks ago, by workmen engaged in preparing rock from the petrified forest, of which material SAMUEL BRANNAN is building a house at Calistoga. In breaking a petrified tree with a sledge-hammer, they came upon an animal bearing more resemblance to a lizard than anything else. With blind faith in the preservative power of liquor, they clapped him into a bottle of whisky, which, of course, killed him. Several days afterward, Mr. BRANNAN himself was near them at their work, when a blow of the hammer split a portion of a petrified tree, revealing a similar reptile nearly as large. Mr. BRANNAN, with that reverence for anything primitive, which characterizes California pioneers, secured the creature and placed it in a phial. The animal is about two inches in length from its nose to the tip of its tail. The tail forms about one-third of its whole length. It has four legs and feet. The fore ones are attached to its body just back of its head, and the hind ones just at the junction of the tail and body. The fore feet are furnished with four claws or fingers, one of which being shorter than the others, resembles a thumb. The hind feet have one more finger. The head and mouth resemble those of a diminutive frog. It does not open its mouth, but keeps its throat constantly in a palpitating motion. Its eyes are dark, and resemble small glass beads stuck on the head. Held between the sunlight and the eye, the body and tail, legs and feet appear translucent. Down the back the spinal column makes a dark streak, and two spots darker than the rest indicate the location of the digestive organs.

The reptile is kept in a corked four-ounce phial. A little water is in the bottom of the phial, but the animal keeps as far away from it as possible. It is also exceedingly adverse to light. The formation of its feet enables it to climb up the inside of the perpendicular phial, even when wet. It takes its station as high as it can get, and remains there until dislodged.

The creature was found imbedded in the body of a petrified fir-tree about two or three feet in diameter. By counting the layers of the tree it was ascertained that it was 500 years old when it commenced to petrify. It was lying prostrate on the ground when found, but the manner in which it is broken from its adjacent stump shows that it must have petrified while standing. It was found in the midst of a petrified forest about three and a half miles from west of Calistoga, in Napa county. This forest embraces about ten acres of trees, all of which are in a complete state of petrefaction. Most of them have fallen to the ground, but a few well-rooted are standing, their immense weight, however, causing them to lean. They comprise redwood, madrone, manzanita and oak, and contain specimens as large as eleven feet in circumference. The petrefaction of the fir species is the most pleasing in appearance. The pitch layers have formed into beautiful quartz crystals, and are a really handsome ornament for a mantel-piece. *Savants* say that the forest standing was ages ago immersed in water, and that the petrefaction took place while so immersed.

Mr. BRANNAN, to preserve some of the best specimens of this forest, has had hauled to the grounds of his hotel in Calistoga, material for a Summer grotto. It is built in the form of a round pyramid, about 18 feet in height and 18 feet in circumference at the base. The tree trunk from which the reptile was taken, was broken to a length of about four and a half feet. Its weight was so great that it took the strength of two yoke of cattle to raise it to a perpendicular position.

Many scientific men have examined the animal, but all are non-plussed, and unable to classify it. A gentleman is very anxious to obtain it for the Smithsonian Institute, but Mr. BRANNAN wishes to retain it, to see how long it will live. He has had it three weeks. It eats nothing and has not grown. Our Academy of Science should endeavor to secure it for their cabinet. It is at present in Mr. BRANNAN'S office on Montgomery-street.

Destruction of the Warsaw, Wyoming County, Gas-Works.

From the Niagara Falls Gazette, Dec. 21.

Our citizens were startled last Thursday afternoon by a telegraph dispatch from Warsaw, announcing the destruction of the Warsaw Gas-works that afternoon by fire, and that Dr. J. B. GATES and wife and two employés were badly burned. The works were recently purchased by our townsmen, T. G. HULETT and S. PETTIBONE, and had not long been in operation since being repaired. Mr. HULETT was in Buffalo on his return from Warsaw when the dispatch concerning the fire called him back. Thoughts of pecuniary loss were not of so much moment to him then as fears for those injured. Mrs. GATES is his youngest daughter. On his arrival in Warsaw he found that Mr. and Mrs. GATES were badly burned about the face and hands, but not dangerously. One of the employés—MCGRAW—was not much injured, but the other—J. DONAHUE—was somewhat burned and had a broken shoulder.

It seems that while some changes were being made the pipe leading from the gas-holder was detached and the outlet plugged with a wooden plug. After awhile the pressure forced the plug out, letting the gas escape into the retort-room, which was soon filled with gas. As soon as it came in contact with the fire a terrific explosion followed. Mr. and Mrs. GATES, who happened to be standing in the doorway, were blown outside some distance. Mrs. GATES was partially buried in the *débris* of the building, but neither suffered much injury. The roof of the building fell in, burying DONAHUE in the ruins. His groans at once attracted the attention of the other three. It required the most courageous and almost superhuman efforts of the three to raise the timbers and release the unfortunate man from his perilous position. In this effort Dr. GATES and wife received most of their injuries. The rescued man was thus saved from a horrible death, although with a broken shoulder. The building was soon after entirely consumed.

The pecuniary loss of our townsmen, the proprietors, is pretty large. They are as yet undecided whether to rebuild. If they do rebuild, it will be of brick or stone instead of wood, as before. Their investment was just becoming remunerative, and promised most satisfactory results to both owners and the citizens of Warsaw. We learn that the injured parties are recovering as rapidly as could be expected.

RELIGIOUS NEWS AND GOSSIP.

Dr. ALBERT T. BLEDSOE, editor of the *Southern Quarterly Review*, and who was, many years ago, a minister of the Episcopal Church, has been admitted into the Methodist Church.

The new Presbyterian church in Baltimore, erected by Mrs. BROWN, as a memorial of her late husband, GEORGE BROWN, was dedicated on the 4th inst. It is an elegant structure, located at Park-avenue and Townsend-street, and cost, with the ground, $150,000.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Quincy, Ill., has excommunicated for a year nearly the entire congregation at New-Albany for engaging in a dance on Sunday, Nov. 6, in opposition to the will of the priests, on the occasion of the dedication of a new church.

Letters from Rev. Dr. NEHEMIAH ADAMS, of Boston, dated Hong Kong, Oct. 5, report his health entirely restored, and his mental and bodily vigor quite up to what he has enjoyed for years past. He was performing ministerial services, on shipboard and on land, constantly. He will not probably be home before Spring.

SAMUEL IRELAND tells of the miracle of St. Denis walking from Paris after his decollation with his head under his arm, but makes the miracle still greater by his mode of relating the story. He says: "During his peregrination he carried his head under his arm, with much coolness and deliberation, and often kissed it by the way."

The one hundredth anniversary of the ordination of Bishop WHITE, the first Bishop of the American Episcopal Church, was celebrated in Philadelphia, Dec. 23. Bishops SMITH and MCILVAINE were consecrated by him, and eighteen men are living whom he ordained either as priest or deacon.

St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church, Windsor, Ontario, has just distributed the prizes in a grand lottery of 7,000 shares, in which each purchaser had a lithograph of Pope PIUS, and prizes varying in value from $500 in gold to jewelry of a few dollars' value were distributed.

The Honolulu *Gazette* ridicules the New-York *Independent's* assertion that Rev. TITUS COAN, of Hilo, had baptised 1,700 converts in one day in Hilo and 12,000 in thirty-seven years island service. It finds that he would have been obliged to baptize three per minute for a day of ten hours to achieve the first, and doubts strength and converts.

A clergyman in a suburban village coolly stopped during his sermon and remarked to a late comer, "Glad to see you, Sir; come in; always glad to see those here late who cannot come early." The new arrival was equally cool. With a bland smile he replied, "Thank you; would you favor me with the text?"

The *Christian Observer* says that the Presbyterian statistics show a gratifying increase of liberality from year to year. The average amount given by each communicant for benevolent purposes was in 1820 17½ cents, in 1837 $1 28, and in 1870 $4 53. The collections for Congregational purposes averaged $5 02 in 1851, and $14 37 in 1869.

A gentleman, whose custom it was to entertain very often a circle of friends, observed that one of them was in the habit of eating something before grace was asked, and determined to cure him. Upon the repetition of the offense, he said: "For what we are about to receive, and for what JAMES TAYLOR has already received, the Lord make us truly thankful."

The Prussian minister of religion, though a Protestant, seems to be doing all he can to force the dogma of infallibility on the Roman Catholics of Germany. The Archbishops of Cologne and Munich are silencing the professors in the Catholic universities who will not yield on this point, and he seems determined to aid them as far as is possible.

Dr. CANDLISH's church, in Edinburgh, is the largest and most prominent of the churches of the Free Church of Scotland. It has thirty-nine deacons and thirty-nine elders. An elder and a deacon supervise the parish work in each of the twenty-one districts into which the parish is divided. They had some trouble about the singing until they adopted the plan of having four choirs, which conduct the singing alternately, and occupy pews in the middle of the house.

After the faculty of Trinity College forbade the students attending St. John's Church (Ritualistic) in East Hartford, on the ground that it was out of town, and so came within the reach of an old college law, the Church of the Incarnation was built within the limits of Hartford, and a choir of students was formed. The rector, Mr. KNIGHT, wished to dress them in surplices; but Bishop WILLIAMS requested that it be delayed till after the next General Convention. Mr. KNIGHT replied that he had been advised to the step by Bishop DOANE, of Albany, formerly a clergyman of Hartford. At this stage all the Hartford rectors but one sent a memorial to Mr. KNIGHT urging him to desist. Under the circumstances he has sent his resignation to the Bishop; and the surplices, though made, have not yet been worn.

Evenings with the Sacred Poets contains a good story of the minister of a Methodist chapel in Georgia, who, having left his spectacles at home on one occasion, intended to announce to his congregation that the singing would be dispensed with. He arose and said:

My eyes are dim, I cannot see;

and immediately the choristers commenced singing the words to the "Old Hundredth." Surprise and mortification made him almost breathless, but he made an effort to stammer out:

I meant but an apology.

This line was taken up by the congregation in the same manner, when the dominie, becoming much excited, exclaimed:

Forbear, I pray; my eyes are dim.

But remonstrance was vain; the singers went on, till, in accents of despair, he again cried out:

I do not mean to read a hymn,

a declaration so palpable that it silenced the vociferous singers.

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FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

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—*Advertisement.*

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For singers and public speakers, to keep the throat moist and voice clear. It is excellent. Put up in small boxes. STEPHEN F. WHITMAN & SON, sole manufacturers, Philadelphia. Can be had at HUDNUT'S Pharmacy, Herald Buildings; CASWELL, HAZARD & CO.'s, 5th-av., corner 24th-st., and other leading druggists.—*Advertisement.*

Holiday Presents for Ladies.

A good Sewing-machine lightens the labor and promotes the health and happiness of those at home. The Grover & Baker is generally acknowledged to be the best Sewing-machine for family use. Sales-room No. 495 Broadway.—*Advertisement.*

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Nos. 109 and 111 East 14th-st., New-York.

Mrs. Winslow vs. Crying Children.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child, suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP.

A Holiday Present.

POLLAK & SON, manufacturers of Meerschaum Goods, sell their warranted genuine Pipes and Cigar-Holders at wholesale prices, at their retail store, No. 27 John-st., middle of block.

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Royal Havana Lottery of Cuba.—Prizes paid in gold, information furnished, highest rates paid for doubloons, and all kinds of gold and silver.
TAYLOR & CO., Bankers,
No. 16 Wall-st., New-York.

DIED.

BALDWIN.—On Saturday morning, Dec. 24, EDWARD BALDWIN, formerly of Boston, aged 56 years.

CHEEKS.—On the 23d inst., MARIE LUCETTE, relict of the late Wm. Cheeks, M. D., of Philadelphia, in the 73d year of her age.

Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, from the residence of her son, Wm. Cheeks, south-east corner 47th-st. and 7th-av., on Wednesday, 28th inst., at 11 o'clock.

HOPPIN.—In Brooklyn, on Saturday, 24th inst., at the residence of her son-in-law, Nehemiah Knight, Mrs. AMY H. HOPPIN, relict of Henry Hoppin, of Providence, R. I., in the 82d year of her age.

Notice of funeral in Tuesday's papers.

☞ Providence and Philadelphia papers please copy.

JONES.—On Dec. 22, ISAAC F. JONES, in his 68th year.

Funeral from the house No. 331 West 22d-st., on Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 11 A. M.

PHILLIPS.—On the 24th inst., RACHEL ROSALIE, daughter of Jonas N. and Esther Phillips, in the 25th year of her age.

Funeral from No. 36 West 12th-st., on Monday morning, at 10 o'clock precisely.

STORM.—On Wednesday evening, 21st instant, at the Fifth-avenue Hotel, JOHN B. STORM, only son of the late Isaac A. Storm.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from Christ Church, 5th-av., corner of 35th-st., on Monday, 26th inst., at 11 o'clock A. M.

WALTER.—At Astoria, Long Island, on the morning of Saturday, the 24th inst., MARIA, relict of the late Elihu Walter, in the 77th year of her age.

Funeral on Monday next, at 1 P. M., at the residence of her son, George B. Walter, at Astoria, Long Island. The friends of her family and her son's family are invited without further notice. The remains will be taken to Syracuse for interment.

WHITE.—On Friday, Dec. 22, SAMUEL WHITE, Jr., aged 26 years 2 months.

The relatives and friends of the family, the members of the Board of Brokers, Keystone Lodge No. 235, F. and A. M., and the officers and members of G Co., 12th Reg., N. G. S. N. Y., are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the Duane M. E. Church, corner Spring and Hudson sts., Monday, 26th inst., at 1 o'clock.

MISCELLANEOUS.

$32 CURRENCY.—ROYAL HAVANA Lottery of Cuba will be drawn Jan. 11. Circulars sent. JOSEPH BATES & CO, No. 11 Wall-st., Post-office Box No. 4,264.

DIAMONDS AND WATCHES BOUGHT and sold. GEO. C. ALLEN, No. 513 Broadway, under St. Nicholas Hotel.

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NOTICE TO THE TRADE AND PUBLIC.

BARTLETT'S ILLUSTRATED MAP OF NEW-YORK CITY will be published on the 29th of December, 1870. It is the most comprehensive and unique map ever produced of this City. No one should be without it, strangers especially. It shows the public buildings and places of amusement in their relative position. It also gives the various architectural beauties of the City. As an artistic production it stands unrivaled. Size 24x38. Neatly bound in cloth covers with gilt letters. Price, 50 cents, mailed on receipt of price. Publishing office, No. 309 Broadway, New-York.

BARTLETT'S ILLUSTRATED MAP OF LONDON. Bartlett's American edition of this celebrated map will be published 29th of December, 1870, as a companion to his New-York map. Neatly bound in cloth covers with gilt letters. Price only 50 cents. Mailed on receipt of price. Publishing office, No. 309 Broadway, New-York.

ENGLISH WATER-COLOR DRAWINGS AND RETOUCHED CHROMOS, &c.—A collection always on view, at SARONY & CO.'S, No. 680 Broadway.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

GREENE-STREET M. E. CHURCH, between Broome and Spring sts.—Rev. A. K. SANFORD, Pastor, will preach a Christmas sermon on SUNDAY, at 10½ o'clock A. M. A prayer and praise meeting will be held at 7 o'clock P. M. The annual meeting of the Sunday-school, for the distribution of rewards, will take place on MONDAY EVENING. Seats free.

FIVE POINTS HOUSE OF INDUSTRY, No. 155 Worth-st., W. F. BARNARD, Superintendent.—Services are held every SUNDAY, in the new chapel at 3 o'clock P. M. Christmas festival will be held on MONDAY, 26th inst. Services commence at 12½ o'clock; dinner at 2 o'clock; distribution of presents from the tree at 3 o'clock. All cordially invited to visit us.

THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY of the YOUTH'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of Allen-street Presbyterian Church, will be held in the church, (Allen-st., near Grand,) on SABBATH EVENING, Dec. 25, 7½ o'clock. Interesting reports, addresses by Rev. Dr. HASTINGS and the Pastor, W. W. NEWELL, D. D., and singing by the children. All are cordially invited.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.—CHURCH OF St. John Baptist, (Episcopal,) Lexington-av., corner 35th-st. SUNDAY MORNING, with Communion at 10½ o'clock; EVENING, at 7½. Rev. D. DUFFIE, Rector, will preach. Strangers are cordially invited; as also to the Christmas Tree for the Sunday-school, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 28, at 7 o'clock.

CHRISTMAS SERMON AT THE Grand-st. Methodist Church, Williamsburg, near 5th-st., by T. T. KENDRICK, the Pastor, SABBATH MORNING, at 10½ o'clock; also the young people's review of Seventy, by the same, at 7½ P. M. Seats free. Sabbath-school anniversary MONDAY EVENING, 26th.

ST. PAUL'S REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH, Reservoir-square, 40th-st., between 5th and 6th avs., Rev. ALEXANDER R. THOMPSON, D. D., Minister.—Services every SUNDAY, at 10½ o'clock A. M. and 7½ o'clock P. M. A cordial invitation is extended to any one who may not be settled in any other church home, to unite with us in these services.

SEVENTH-STREET M. E. CHURCH, 7th-st., near 3d-av.—Preaching on SABBATH MORNING at 10½ o'clock, and in the EVENING at 7 o'clock, by the Pastor, Rev. C. BACKMANN. Subject in the morning—*Nativity of Christ*. Prayer-meeting, 6 P. M. Sabbath-school at 9 A. M. and 2 P. M.

LEXINGTON-AVENUE M. E. CHURCH, corner of 52d-st.—The Pastor, R. M. STRATTON, will preach SABBATH MORNING at 10½. Subject—*Christ Leading the World*; and at 7½ P. M. will continue his course of sermons on the "Future Life." Subject—*Hell*. Seats Free. Christmas Sabbath-school festival MONDAY EVENING.

FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 34th-st., west of Broadway and 6th-av., Rev. JOHN THOMSON, D. D., Pastor.—Divine service in this church during the Winter months will commence at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.

FREE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS, No. 210 West 42d-st.—Services on CHRISTMAS DAY, 10½ A. M. Sermon by the Rector, Rev. Dr. CORNWALL; and 7½ P. M. sermon by Rev. N. ELLSWORTH CORNWALL.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES, 28th-st. and 9th-av.—SUNDAY services 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. EVENING sermons on *The Apostolic Age*. Rev. J. T. LUNDY, D. D., Rector; Rev. W. F. LEWIS, assistant.

REV. O. B. FROTHINGHAM WILL preach in Lyric Hall, No. 723 6th-av., on SUNDAY MORNING at 10½ o'clock. Subject—*The Christmas Song of Humanity*.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.—REV. DRS. KENDRICK, BALL and CAMERON will address the children of the Morning Star Sunday-school THIS (Saturday) EVENING, Dec. 24, at 130 West 24th-st.

REV. MERRILL RICHARDSON WILL preach at the Broadway Tabernacle Church on SABBATH EVENING, Dec. 25, at 7½. Seats always free at the evening service.

CHURCH OF THE HEAVENLY REST (now extended to 5th-av.)—Divine service at 11 A. M. and 3½ P. M.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

REV. MERRILL RICHARDSON, Pastor of the New-England Congregational Church, corner of Madison-av. and 47th-st., will preach a Christmas sermon SUNDAY MORNING, at 10½ o'clock. Rev. J. P. THOMPSON, D. D., will preach in the EVENING at 7½. Strangers and all invited.

GRACE CHAPEL—FREE SEATS, EAST 14th-st., Rev. JOHN W. KRAMER, Clergyman in charge.—Services on CHRISTMAS DAY at 9½ and 11 A. M., and 7½ P. M. Subject of the evening sermon—*Why Jesus Christ Came at the Time He Did.* Strangers cordially invited. Sunday-school Festival on Holy Innocents' Day, WEDNESDAY, at 3 P. M.

REV. C. S. ROBINSON, D. D., (Pastor elect,) will preach in the Eleventh Presbyterian Church, 55th-st., near Lexington-av., every SABBATH MORNING and EVENING.

FREE (EPISCOPAL) CHURCH OF ST. MARY, THE VIRGIN, 45th-st., between Broadway and 8th-av.—SUNDAYS—Holy Communion, 7 A. M.; Morning Prayer, 10 A. M.; Litany, 10½ A. M.; Holy Communion, 11 A. M.; Sunday-school, 2½ P. M.; Evening Prayer, 4 P. M.; Compline, (with sermon,) 8 P. M. WEEK DAYS, throughout the year—Holy Communion, 7 A. M.; Morning Prayer, 9 A. M.; Evening Prayer, 8 P. M. Evening Prayer, Choral, on WEDNESDAYS and FRIDAYS.

THE CHILDREN'S FOLD CORDIALLY invites its friends to visit the institution, No. 1,119 2d-av., second door below 59th-st., on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 28, at 2½ o'clock P. M., being its fourth annual reception. The orphans' happiness will be increased by Christmas gifts. Rev. EDWARD COWLEY is President, and Mr. WM. H. NEWMAN, Treasurer, No. 119 Pearl-st. Mrs. D. HUNTINGTON, No. 49 East 20th-st., will forward donations from up-town friends.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, 5TH-av. and 10th-st.—The last of the free services that have been held for the last year and a half upon Sunday evenings in this church, will be held upon SUNDAY EVENING, (Christmas Day,) beginning at 7½ o'clock. A collection will be taken up in aid of the building fund of Emmanuel Church, on 57th-st. Rev. GEORGE E. THRALL and Rev. MASON GALLAGHER.

EVENING SERVICE IN ASSOCIATION HALL.—Rev. CYRUS D. FOSS, D. D., will deliver an address to young men, on SUNDAY, at 7½ o'clock, in the Hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, corner 23d st. and 4th-av. Bible class every Sunday afternoon, at 5 o'clock. All are invited to these meetings.

TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, West 34th-st., near 8th-av.—The Pastor, Rev. Dr. FOSS, will preach a Christmas sermon on SUNDAY MORNING, the 25th inst., at 10½ o'clock. Preaching in the EVENING at 7½ o'clock by Rev. Dr. FERRIS, on the subject of *City Missions.* N. B.—No collection.

"CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH," corner Park-av. and 34th-st.—There will be a special service in this church on SUNDAY MORNING, the 25th, in commemoration of the day—Christmas. Sermon on *Christ and Christianity* by Rev. GEO. H. HEPWORTH. Service in the EVENING as usual, at 7½ o'clock.

ALLEN-STREET M. E. CHURCH, between Rivington and Delancey sts.—Rev. WILLIAM MCALLISTER, Pastor, will preach at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Sunday-school at 9 A. M. and 1½ P. M. Prayer-meeting at 3 P. M. Young people's prayer-meeting at 6 o'clock. Seats free. All are cordially invited.

SEVENTEENTH-STREET M. E. CHURCH, between 1st and 2d avs.—Rev. J. S. WILLIS, Pastor, will preach SUNDAY MORNING and EVENING. Subject—Morning: Christmas sermon; evening: *Time to Die.* Seats free. General prayer-meeting at 3½ P. M. Evening service commences at 7 o'clock.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, 21st-st., between 5th and 6th avs., Rev. G. F. KROTEL, D. D., Pastor.—Services appropriate to the season, SUNDAY, 25th inst., at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Strangers invited and furnished with seats.

TWENTY-SEVENTH-STREET M. E. CHURCH, between 2d and 3d avs.—Rev. J. E. SEARLES, Pastor, will preach a Christmas sermon, SUNDAY EVENING, at 7 o'clock. Seats free.

P. S.—Watch meeting, SATURDAY NIGHT, to commence at 9 o'clock. Doors closed at 11.

REV. ISAAC WESCOTT WILL preach in Plymouth Baptist Church, 51st-st., between 9th and 10th avs., SUNDAY, at 10½ A. M., on *Christmas*; and at 7½ P. M., subject—*How Shall Protestants Sustain Religious Liberty in this Country?* Sunday-school at 9 and 2 o'clock.

JOHN-STREET M. E. CHURCH, BEtween Nassau and William sts.—Pastor Rev. L. S. WEED will preach a Christmas sermon at 10½ A. M.; in the EVENING, at 7½ P. M. Subject the ninth chapter of Romans. Seats free. Strangers cordially invited.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, West 23d-st., between 5th and 6th avs.—Preaching by the Pastor, Rev. R. S. MCARTHUR, SUNDAY, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Services appropriate to the day. The ordinance of baptism will be administered in the evening.

FIVE POINTS MISSION, SITE OF THE Old Brewery, No. 61 Park-st., the original mission at the Points, Rev. J. N. SHAFFER, Superintendent.—Services at 10½ A. M., and preaching at 7½ P. M. Sabbath-school at 9½ A. M., and from 2 to 4 P. M. Friends of the cause are invited.

UNIVERSALISM.—REV. E. C. SWEETSER will preach, THIS (Sunday) EVENING, in the Church corner of Bleecker and Downing sts., one of a series of expository sermons upon "The Universalist Belief." Subject—*The Universalist Idea of Salvation.*

SECOND ADVENT CHURCH, COOPER Institute, Room No. 24.—Preaching SUNDAY by Elder S. W. BISHOP at 10½ A. M. and 3 P. M., on subjects connected with the coming of Christ and a future life. All are cordially invited to hear. Seats free.

THE CITY ON FIRE!—BISHOP SNOW will preach in the University, Washington-square, on SUNDAY, at 3 P. M. Seats free. Subject—*The Great Conflagration, or the Burning of the Mystical Babylon.* Come and hear.

ST. ANN'S FREE CHURCH, 18TH-ST., near 5th-av.—On SUNDAY Rev. S. F. HOLMES will preach at 7½ A. M., Rev. Dr. GALLAUDET at 10½ A. M. and 2½ P. M. for deaf mutes, and Rev. C. B. SMITH at 7½ P. M.; catechetical instruction at 4 P. M.

"ADORNMENTS OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN."—Sermon by Rev. JOHN Q. ADAMS, in the Church corner Madison and Gouverneur sts., at 3 P. M. Seats free. He will also preach at 10½ A. M.

WEST FIFTY-THIRD-STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, 6th and 7th avs.—Preaching SUNDAY by the Pastor, Rev. W. H. PENDLETON, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Baptism at the EVENING service. Sunday-school at 2 P. M.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH, REV. DR. MORGAN, Rector.—Services on CHRISTMAS DAY. Sunrise service, morning prayer and Litany, 7½. Communion service, with sermon at 11. Sunday-school festival service at 4 P. M.

REV. WILLIAM H. BOOLE WILL preach in the Beekman Hill M. E. Church, East 50th-st., between 1st and 2d avs., on SUNDAY MORNING, at 10½ o'clock, and in the EVENING at 7 o'clock. Sunday-school at 2 P. M. All are invited.

FREE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE, 74th-st., east of 4th-av., Rev. J. TUTTLE SMITH, Rector.—CHRISTMAS services at 10½ A. M. and 3½ P. M. Sunday-school Festival, THURSDAY, Dec. 29, at 2 o'clock P. M.

REV. DR. PRICE WILL PREACH ON CHRISTMAS DAY, at the Home Chapel, No. 29 East 29th-st., between Madison and 4th avs. Services at 10½ A. M. The children will sing. All invited. Seats free.

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, Bleecker, corner Morton st.—The Pastor, Rev. JOHN LOVE, Jr., will preach SUNDAY, Dec. 25, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Baptism at the close of the EVENING service. Seats free.

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH, CORner Bedford and Downing sts.—Anniversary of the Sunday-school Missionary Association at 7½ P. M. Addresses by Rev. GEO. J. MINGINS, G. W. HILLMAN, and by the Pastor, Rev. P. L. DAVIES.

OLD TIMES REVIVED.—A SPINNING-wheel in full operation at the Christmas anniversary of the Sunday-school of the Eighteenth-street M. E. Church, (near 8th-av.,) MONDAY EVENING, Dec. 26, 1870. Exercises commence at 7½ P. M.

ST. JOHN'S M. E. CHURCH, 53D-ST., between Broadway and 8th-av.—Preaching, SUNDAY, Dec. 25, at 10½ A. M., by Rev. J. GLENTWORTH BUTLER, D. D. EVENING at 7½, by Pastor. Young people's prayer-meeting at 6½ P. M. Seats free.

MRS. CORA L. V. TAPPAN WILL give her closing discourses before the Society of Progressive Spiritualists, at Apollo Hall, Broadway and 28th-st., SUNDAY, at 10½ and 7½ o'clock. No reserved seats.

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH. REV. GEORGE H. HEPWORTH.—Pew to rent for SUNDAY EVENINGS only. Family now occupying can only attend mornings. Is well located in the body of the church. Address D. NELLA, Station D.

ANTHON MEMORIAL CHURCH, 48th-st., west of 6th-av., Rector, Rev. R. HEBER NEWTON.—Divine service at 10½ A. M.; no evening service this Sabbath; children's church at 3 P. M.

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE—Church of the Ascension, corner of 5th-av. and West 10th-st.—Divine service at 7½ o'clock. Strangers are cordially invited; seats free.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. Luke's M. E. Church, 41st-st., near 6th-av., at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Trustees in attendance to seat strangers.

MADISON-AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, corner 31st-st.—Rev. J. F. ELDER, Pastor, will preach on SUNDAY at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Sunday-school at 9 A. M.

REV. JOHN TRIMBLE WILL PREACH in St. David's Church, 9th-av. and 47th-st., THIS MORNING. Services at 8, 10½ and 6½. The evening sermon will be preached by Rev. J. D. BRADLEY.

REV. STEPHEN H. TYNG, JR., WILL deliver the eighth sermon to young people, in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Madison-av. and 42d-st., on SUNDAY EVENING, at 7½ o'clock.

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION, Madison-av. and 35th-st.—Rev. Dr. WYATT will preach in this Church, on SUNDAY EVENING, at 7½ o'clock.

MURRAY HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 40th-st., near Lexington-av.—Services on SABBATH at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M.; preaching by the Pastor, Rev. GEORGE S. CHAMBERS.

REV. W. W. PAGE WILL PREACH IN the New-York Presbyterian Church, corner Houston and Thompson sts., at 10½ A.M. and 7½ P.M. Strangers made welcome.

DIVINE SERVICE AT ST. AMBROSE, corner of Prince and Thompson sts., SUNDAY EVENING. Offertory in aid of the Church.

FRENCH CHURCH DU ST. ESPRIT, West 22d-st.; divine service in French every SUNDAY MORNING, commencing at 10½ o'clock.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY LIGHT, 7th-av., near 34th-st.—Divine service at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Rev. Dr. MCVICKAR will preach.

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH.—B. W. WILLIAMS, sexton and undertaker, No. 274 6th-av.

COSTUMES AND COSTUMERS.

A Look Behind the Scenes of Some Bowery and Broadway Concerns.

Extent of the Business—How Elaborate Costumes Are Fashioned—Prices, Costumes and Properties for Amateur Actors—Masks—What is Done With Worn-out Dresses.

THACKERAY, in his prize novels, tells us how Godfrey de Buillion, Marquis of Codlingsby, meets his friend Rafael Mendoza. It was at the masquerade warehouse of Hollywell-street, amid "old feathers, old yellow boots, old stage mantles, painted masks, blind and gazing at you with a look of sad death-like intelligence from the vacancy behind their sockets." The great novelist pleasantly describes Mr. Lint, the medical student, haggling with the millionaire proprietor for the hire "of a doublet of orange tawney and silver, slashed with dirty blue," and how the price was at last settled at fifteen shillings. Very certainly the Bowery is not Hollywell-street. If our good friend, Mr. Abrahams, gets no pleasant nod from Lady Laura Latimer, the Archbishop of Corydon's daughter, as did Mendoza, it is simply because Mr. Abrahams' stock may be frowzy, and not recherché enough for such dainty elegance. The chaste Marguerite, of the avenue, (such a divine picture in the Faust tableau!) or the talented Zerlina of the Barber of Fourteenth-street, have their gracious smiles for their New-York costumer, for without him their delirious triumphs might have been "successes of esteem," and nothing more. The hiring out of dresses, doublets, gabardines, harness, caparisons—of farthingales, kirtles, is an important business in New-York, and one that is increasing every day. Whether our American citizen, if left to himself, would have taken instinctively to motley, we are not prepared to say. Perhaps that very large leven of foreign element has helped to mature him. As it is, if it be an acquired taste, he accepts it. We leave to some future *Saturday Reviewer* the learned disquisition on the subject, simply remarking that human beings find it a necessity to evince their happiness to other people's eyes and ears. We can grieve in silence, but must be glad in company—somebody else must appreciate the joke. Imagine a man firing off a cannon for his own jollification, or putting on mummery for his sole private delectation.

THE BUSINESS IN AMERICA.

The hiring costume business is a growth of modern date, and possibly, as a regular enterprise, is not more than fifteen to eighteen years old. At present, about thirty houses are regularly in the trade. This number is capable of an unlimited extension, and during the holiday season it swells up to fully 400. Tailors, milliners, dress-makers, just now work up their old stock, hire their costumes for a month or two, and then relapse into their legitimate business. If you doubt this large number, just count for yourself the costume depots along the Bowery and the avenues. In some localities, you will find four to the block,—rather suggestive of Sam Weller's philosophical notion of the conjunction of poverty and oyster-cellars. You can find them readily enough. A pretty loud sign decorates the second story; if at night, there is a transparency. You mostly have to go up two to four flights; there is an odor of onions; the landings are not over nice, and either on the flat above or below there is a barber.

TRADE WITH FAR-AWAY PLACES.

Our costumers do not depend upon City demand alone. The best houses advertise all over the country. Orders come from St. Louis, New-Orleans, from San Francisco. White Pine strikes a paying lead, and White Pine, throwing aside *ponchos* and grizzly bear coverings, hankers for gorgeous frippery. New-York sends the carnival costume to White Pine. This season, a $2,200 order was forwarded to the Sandwich Islands. Knights Templar, Odd Fellows, Bands of Temperance, want their raree shows, artists want to commemorate some festival, and send to our New-York costumers for their livery.

CHANCES TAKEN BY THE TRADE.

That vague uncertainty of passing events, the subtle distinction between *meum* and *tuum* at first pervaded our minds. Say you hire out your Roman brigand dress, and suppose the character imbued with the necessary inspiration should walk off to the Abruzzi with your goods? We are only too glad to mention that human nature puts on for such occasions her best aspect. Said our costumer friend to us:

"Of course, it's like all other trades, you have to take your chances. We have sometimes lost a whole rig. Dear me! what an elegant Hamlet, with real jet on it, took French leave! We never seed a rag of it again. But it's rare. They comes back torn to slivers some times, and then we have hard work to make our money. You see, we require cash down in advance, and if its a bran new dress, a fair deposit. We take the costume to the people's houses, and calls for them. It's a great school to study human nature in, as we have to look closely to customers. We do, however, a first-class business. We are pretty well known in the Sunday-school tableau line. You would'nt believe the churches our goods has helped to build, nor the number of benighted heathens we have clothed. Them angel's wings is for a Sunday-school. They wants twenty-seven pair."

PRICES.

The demand for dresses for public balls is a steady one during the season, and one house has furnished as many as 400 for a single night. The more regular business is for private theatricals and tableau, this latter entertainment being a favorite one all the year round. There is a wide distinction between the various houses. Some of the first-class establishments with a distinguished *clientelle*, have branch houses in Brooklyn and Jersey City. You can get there a complete cast of any piece, and every dress made and fitted for the occasion. You may have Othello with Desdemona, Iago, Cassio, the Senators and soldiers, all Venice and Cyprus, with properties, for a matter of $250. This is the charge of hire for a first appearance; for the second night it will be $150, and so on, with a sliding scale. If you are very successful, and continue the engagement, you can own your own tights after a while. Claude Melnotte costs less. You can have it all fresh for $150; and a roaring farce, with the comic hats and coats, as funny as you want, costs $50. Should you descend to negro minstrelsy, you can procure the entire rig, high shirt-collar, wooly wig, No. 13 brogans, and be colored, for $4 50 a head.

HOW COSTUMES ARE MADE.

Much difference exists in costumes. You do not want Tyrean purple or silk velvet for tableau or theatre. Cotton velvet will do most as well; Dutch metal can take the place of gold leaf, and even if your Louis XIII. cloak be lined with ten-cent paper-cambric, no one is much the wiser. Under the footlights the paste diamond and the kohinoor are much the same thing. But if you have to dance, you must try and get as nearly the real thing as possible. A very handsome ball costume will cost for a man $40 for a night. You can get a common one for $2. Dresses have, of course, a certain number of lives. The oftener they go out, the poorer and cheaper they become.

MASKS.

Masks and wigs are, of course, adjuncts of the business. On the former a whole chapter might be written. There is your intriguing domino, a frail thing; the French call it a *loup*—or wolf, because the wearers sometimes show their teeth and devour poor sportive lambs. These are the airy things, impenetrable disguises. Made of light taffeta, they end with a floating piece of silk, which covers the chin, and are black, white or rose color. Once grand ladies wore them up to the period of CHARLES II., and in Venice as late as 1760 they were as much in common use as fans. Then there is your coarser comic face of *papier-maché*, made either like the antique mask, a rigid semblance of humanity, or grotesque with ludicrous distortions, or the more modern ones, huge extinguishers of personality, covering head and shoulders, converting the wearer into an ass or an owl. All masks come from Nuremburg, and that city, the birth place of ALBERT DURER, holds the false face market in her grasp. Until some two years ago, the dominos or loups were imported, but see the triumph of American industry. Whether due to protection or not, we cannot say, but now these are home made, and will rival the best productions of Paris or Naples. Can there be a stronger argument to determine the fact that Saturnalia has founded an empire here?

AVERAGE LIFE OF COSTUMES.

Depending on its uses, costumes are more or less perishable. For a tableau, once the pose assumed—the conventional clothes-horse one—there is hardly any wear and tear, and a costume lasts fresh for a season. If for private theatricals it is a different thing. Swords other than Laertes' may trip up poor Hamlet, and when the *natural* death-fall does come, it may occur with such a bump that no mortal stuff nor stitch can stand the strain. Short-lived, then, as is the amateur theatrical dress, much more ephemeral is the fancy-ball costume. Your courtly rigadoon and saraband, your stately gavote and impressive minuet, were slow when compared with your polka or your *valse infernal*, and the anchronism plays the mischief with the costume. You can take the bloom of that delicate peach-colored velvet page's dress, with jaunty cap and plume, chaste dagger and all, for $35 for a first appearance; but a month hence—once the down is off—it may be had for $10, and then for $5.

ELABORATE BROADWAY CONCERNS.

It takes quite a large amount of money to keep up a first-class costume establishment, and $50,000 might not go very far in the business. Some have very handsome apartments in Broadway. Here exceedingly polite people, with obliging lady assistants, can wait on you. You can have unexceptionable costumes, making your selection by means of illustrated albums. If very nice, you can see the effect produced on a doll. Here are elaborate wigs, toupées, perukes, from the comic scratch, worth $2, to the flowing tresses, like a King's mantle, worth $150. You may be Lucrezia Borgia, Queen Elizabeth, Essex, or Sir Walter Raleigh, for a $50 bill. Some houses unite with the costume business the whole arrangement and detail of private theatricals and tableaux. They will convert your drawing-room into a stage, with scenes, footlights and drop-curtains, and red fire, and, for aught we know, can furnish real water and a practical bridge.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE COSTUME MARKET.

It may be perhaps difficult to quote the costume market precisely to a fraction. A theatrical piece has a run and the public seizes on the principal characters. We are, we believe, safe in stating that Fausts, Marguerites and Devils are in good demand, while Vivandieres are decidedly on the decline. Girls of the Period are on the wane, while genii of Germany can hardly be produced in sufficient quantity. Pierrots and Columbines are good stock, but Brigands at a discount. Money put out on Undines brings a safe return, while Turks are neglected. Clowns, Yankees, Paul Prys, Highlanders, General Boums, Hamlets, Sancho Panzas, Jockeys, Hermits, Punches, Baboons, Crusaders, Mandarins and Troubadores are fairly steady. There is one establishment having a speciality. Here our colored friends can try on flesh-colored tights. He did not learn whether the subtle distinction 'twixt the vengeful Moor and his gentle wife was accurately delineated. Yet is there another strange episode of the business, sometimes not always connected with the costume trade; that is the loaning of modern clothes, dress suits and lady's attire for festive occasions. One might naturally ask whether a man ever gets married in clothes which do not belong to him? Can he even hire a ring for the occasion? Another question is imminently suggested. If the clothes have to be returned after a day's usage, could there be any runaway matches?

USE OF OLD DRESSES AND FRAGMENTS.

What becomes of the old gala dresses? Once on a time they found a ready market in Africa. It was somewhat of a satire on the pomp and frivolity of humanity to find the Major-General's coat with the jester's trappings on the ebon shoulders of some lusty semi-Gambian. A Frenchman in olden times, on Afric's burning sands, fresh from the grand opera, with sounds of MUSARD still in his ears, might have had joyous reminiscences. But now, alas! civilization has gone there, and the unsophisticated savage is given to moral pocket-handkerchiefs and mackintoshes. Where do all parti-colored fragments go to? what necropolis engulphs all these false shams? If the best of them will stand a furbish, they are cut up, and trim cheap bonnets for Southern negroes, but a notable proportion are used in the Mexican trade. That Mary Queen of Scots, once the delight of an elegant society, like all things human, when it left Lyons and was cut at STEWART'S for $20 a yard, had its fate. An unlucky bottle of champagne and a spoonful of *magonaise* first did the business. The transition then was fearfully rapid. Lager-beer splashed it, a sausage with sauer-krout rolled over it, and it went home more than once in a drenching rain without an umbrella. From that it was from bad to worse. At last, huddled up with a whole mass of cast-off frippery, a portion was made up into velvet breeches, and another bit into a saddle-cloth' and some Mexican half-bred near Santa Fé bought them. Would you have its sequel? The Indians caught and scalped the wearer; and now the last fragment of this dress, as a faded rag, flitters on the spear point of some murdering Apache as he careers over the boundless plains.

Crime in the City—Arrests for Forgery, False Pretenses, Larcenies, &c.

JOSEPH CHABAU, of No. 47 Elm-street, and CHARLES WILLOUGHBY, of No. 10 Catherine-street, entered the premises of ELIAS HATFIELD, in the basement of No. 216 Centre-street, on Friday evening, under pretense of looking at some pumps. They seized HATFIELD by the throat, however, and robbed him of $40, being soon after arrested. Justice DOWLING held the prisoners for trial.

HARRIET JENKINS presented a pass-book, yesterday, at the Union Dime Savings Bank, in Canal-street, and represented herself as ANN WALKER, and demanded $50. She made a mark in the book of receipts, and was then detected as an imposter. HARRIET was arraigned before Justice DOWLING, and was held for trial. FRANKLIN H. CHAPIN, the bank teller, who made the complaint, was very anxious to prevent the publication of the case, on the ground that it would injure the reputation of the bank. Finding it impossible to stop the publication, Mr. CHAPIN became very insolent and impertinent in his demeanor.

FRANCIS DEMPSEY and two unknown men stole a half-chest of tea, worth $70, from the store of HENRY BLEIDORRO, at No. 250 Washington-street, yesterday. DEMPSEY was arrested, and was held for trial by Justice DOWLING, at the Tombs.

Julius Wald, John Maud, John Fredericks, Conrad Mehling, Valentine Wersensee, John Hegemann and Morris Newman, all cutters for LESSER STEINHARDT, at Nos. 55 and 57 White-street, were arrested, yesterday, for stealing remnants of cloth. They were held for trial by Justice DOWLING.

CHRISTINA FREY, an emigrant, received a copy of a telegram, which she wished to send her husband in Pitsburg, Penn., from the German Society, No. 13 Broadway, on the 23d inst., and started to send it off from Castle Garden. She was accosted by WM. BIEGLE, who induced her to accompany him to a building which he represented as a telegraph office, and obtaining $2 50, as the cost of the message, disappeared with the money. BIEGLE, being arrested yesterday, was held for trial by Justice DOWLING.

WM. J. HENDRICKSON was yesterday arraigned before Justice DOWLING to answer a charge of forgery. He called on WM. L. FULLER at No. 25 John-street, a few days ago, and purchased a gold watch and chain for the sum of $239, giving a check for that amount on the Stuyvesant Bank, purporting to have been signed by WOOD BROTHERS & CO. The check proved to be a forgery, and the watch was subsequently found in the possession of BARRY & CO., money lenders, at 575 Broadway, who had made an advance on it. The prisoner was held for trial.

At the Jefferson Market Police Court, before Judge COX, yesterday, RICHARD RICE and WILLIAM HENDERSON were held to answer on a charge of stealing a diamond cross worth $150, the property of WILLIAM MOIR, of No. 315 Hudson-street.

More Belgian Pavement to be Laid—Action of the Assistant Aldermen.

This Board met at 2 P. M. yesterday, Mr. GALVIN presiding.

A donation of $2,500 was made in aid of the New-York Dispensary.

South Fifth-avenue, formerly Laurens-street, was ordered to be renumbered.

The following streets were ordered to be paved with Belgian pavement: Twelfth and Twenty-third streets, from Second-avenue to East River; Avenue A, from Fourteenth to Twenty-third street; Sixteenth-street, from Sixth-avenue to North River; Waverley-place, from Sixth to Bank-streets, and Eighth-street, from Fourth-street to Broadway.

The Board then adjourned.

Election of Officers of Post Phil. Kearney—Committee at the Orphans' Fair.

At the annual Encampment of Post Phil. Kearney, No. 8, Grand Army of the Republic, the following officers were elected: Henry Mayell, Commander; John D. Terry, S. V. C.; F. E. Farmer, J. V. C.; Mathew Stewart, Adjutant; Jas. H. Stevens, Quartermaster; Henry Wright, Officer of the Day; Peter Dunn, Officer of the Guard; John W. Dixon, Chaplain; Geo. S. Gale, Surgeon; C. A. Baldwin, Sergeant-Major; C. H. Patrick, Second Sergeant-Major. Delegates to the Grand Encampment: Col. B. T. Morgan, Willard Bullard, and James H. Stevens.

The officers and members of the Post have made zealous efforts in behalf of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Fair, and have contributed toward its success.

Table No. 12 is conducted under the auspices of the Post, and is in charge of the following ladies and gentlemen: Gen. Clifford Thomson, Col. B. T. Morgan, James H. Stearns, C. H. Patrick, Alfred Gage and Commander Henry Mayell. Ladies—Miss Stevens, Miss Sussie Drew, Miss Charlot and Miss Ross.

MILITARY GOSSIP.

Occasionally a member of the First Division residing in Kings County is summoned for jury duty, and in such cases the Commissioner of Jurors for that county has seen fit to advise them as to where they should perform military duty, and in which division they should have enlisted, and it is reported that he has gone so far as to refuse an excuse to those who have presented the necessary evidence that they were fully equipped and were doing active duty in the First Division in the City of New-York. In answer to an inquiry from a member of the First Division, "whether, under section 13, Military Code of 1870, any one residing in Kings or Queens County can join any regiment in the City of New-York, and be entitled to all the benefits arising therefrom, as exemption from jury duty, assessments, &c., as though he resided in the City of New-York." Adjt.-Gen. Townsend has replied, under date of Dec. 16, 1870, that, in his opinion, "any one residing in Kings or Queens Counties, and properly qualified otherwise, may be enlisted in any troop, battery or company in the City of New-York, and when so enlisted, he will be entitled to like privileges and exemptions with the other members." This is good authority, for Gen. Townsend is the author of the Military Code of 1870, and it is not believed that any Judge of the higher Courts would differ with him in the construction of the law. Should the Commissioner of Jurors in Kings County persist in annoying the members of the First Division in respect to jury duty, many officers of the First Division are resolved to protect and defend their men, and to secure a decision of the Courts of law, so that the young men of New-York and Brooklyn may be certain that they have a right to serve in any regiment of the First or Second Division, and in no case be deprived of the benefits of such service. Col. Clark, of the Seventh Regiment, has publicly announced that any member of his regiment residing in Kings or Queens Counties, or any man who may hereafter enlist, will be defended and protected in his right to perform his military duty in that regiment. But it is not believed that the Commissioner of Jurors in Kings County will adhere to his former decisions in this matter, contrary to the opinion expressed by the Adjutant-General of the State, Gen. WOODWARD, of the Second Division, and other leading military authorities.

The anti-Fisk movement in the Ninth Regiment has developed a new fact, which shows the extraordinary ambition of its Colonel. It appears that the Colonel is endeavoring to secure his election as Brigadier-General in the Third Brigade, which position will, probably, be soon vacant by the resignation of Gen. Varian. That the effort will fail, through its utter absurdity, we have no doubt, for the field officers in the Third Brigade have been sufficiently scandalized by the appearance of Mr. Fisk as a Colonel, and naturally object to placing him over them as a General. In the event of Gen. Varian resigning his command, there is every reason to suppose that Col. Emmons Clark, of the Seventh Regiment, will be elected to succeed him, should he consent to be a candidate. Col. Clark is a veteran in the National Guard service, and is not only a talented and experienced officer, but also a cultured gentleman, fully fitted for the position of Brigadier-General. The result of making Fisk a Colonel in the Ninth Regiment has been to demoralize the command, and the officers of the brigade cannot afford to have the pernicious influence spread any further.

Quartermaster-General C. F. Bissell has resigned, as his personal interests and business engagements are such that it will be impossible, without great personal inconvenience, for him to take up his residence in Albany.

The members of Company D, First Regiment (Hawkins') Zouaves, have unanimously elected Charles W. Terrette as their Captain. Mr. Terrette has been connected with the National Guard for nearly nine years, having served his full time in the Seventh. He accepted the position with a few veray ppropriate remarks, and after accepting the many congratulations of the officers present, the body adjourned to the "Pavilion," where a suitable repast was provided.

On Tuesday evening last, Gen. Schuyler Hamilton, a grandson of Alexander Hamilton, was present at a meeting of the Sixth Company, Seventh Regiment, and proposed for membership Winfield Scott, a grandson of Gen. Winfield Scott, who was elected and introduced to the Company. Gen. Hamilton served as a private in the Sixth Company during the march of the Seventh Regiment to Washington in 1861, but on the arrival at Washington was immediately appointed Military Secretary by Gen. Scott, with whom he had served with distinction in the Mexican war. The interest taken by veteran members of the Seventh Regiment in its prosperity is an important element of its strength, as is illustrated by the enlistment of young Scott by the veteran Hamilton.

At the recent annual meeting of the veterans of the Twenty-second Infantry, at the armory, the following officers were unanimously elected: William W. Remmey, Colonel; Thomas Comisky, Lieutenant-Colonel; John H. Palmer, Major; C. C. Camerden, Adjutant; Joseph P. Jardine, Paymaster; George Chapin, Quartermaster. A committee was also appointed to raise funds to procure a full length portrait, in oil, of James Munroe, the first Colonel of the Regiment, who died while in command at Harper's Ferry, Va., in 1862. The corps intend to have their annual dinner at Delmonico's, the latter part of January, or the 1st of February. Since the annual meeting in 1869, the corps has added to its roll the names of many prominent and enthusiastic gentlemen, who have served seven years in the regiment, and the organization promises to meet with success.

Capt. Thomas Cullen, of Company B, Twenty-second Regiment, has resigned his commission.

In the case of Private Joseph S. Hart, of Company G, Ninth Regiment, who had appealed to a Court of Inquiry against his expulsion from the company, the Court has decided to sustain the action of the company. Col. Fisk, in reviewing the proceedings, disapproved of the finding, as, though Private Hart had undoubtedly been neglectful of duty, the evidence shows the action of the members of the company, in expelling him, at the meeting of July 5, 1870, to have been illegal, in that three-fourths of the members of said company were not present at said meeting, as required by section 263, Military Code of the State of New-York. The Colonel is surprised that the Court should have rendered a decision so clearly contrary to the evidence, and in such direct opposition to the laws of the State. The decision of the Court is disapproved. Private Joseph S. Hart will, therefore, report to his Captain for duty.

At a meeting of the Tenth Company and the "Associates of the Engineer Corps and Company K," Seventh Regiment, held at the armory on Wednesday evening, Dec. 21, 1870, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, Almighty God, in his wise Providence, hath seen fit to take away from us by death our late veteran fellow-soldier and faithful friend, Capt. Robert E. Launitz; and

Whereas, The occurrence of so sad an event calls for a suitable expression of sorrow at our loss and respect for his memory; therefore, be it

Resolved, That commencing from the time when, as a young and gifted stranger artist, he sought these friendly shores, and the fraternal ties which a connection with our beloved regiment engenders, down to the day of his death, a period of forty years, he exhibited a devotion, enthusiasm and zeal which we may emulate, but can never surpass.

Resolved, That on the entire roll of the regiment, veteran and active, there can be found no name which represents longer and more conscientious duty, warmer and more glowing devotion, or more ardent and irrepressible enthusiasm than that of our lamented comrade, Robert E. Launitz.

Resolved, That, as the first commander of the old "Corps of Engineers," this company loses by his death one of its founders, the regiment one of its oldest and most enthusiastic members, art one of its most earnest and talented votaries, and society the generous, accomplished and true gentleman.

Resolved, That we convey to his afflicted family our heartfelt sympathy in this their sad bereavement.

Resolved, That the company room be draped in mourning; that a copy of these resolutions be entered upon our minutes and sent to the family of the deceased, to the Board of Officers, to the other companies, to the Veteran Association of the regiment and to the press for publication.

Ten-Thousand-Dollar Offices—Appointments by the Sheriff Elect.

The following appointments were made yesterday by MATTHEW T. BRENNAN, the Sheriff elect: *Joel O. Stevens, Under Sheriff; John M. Tracy, Jailor; *Richard Fields, Auctioneer. Deputy Sheriffs—*James Dunphy, *Peter McKnight, *Peter Bowe, *Jacob Seebacher, Jacob Kohler, Chas. A. Brown, Thomas J. Cummins, Thomas Daly, Peter McGinnis, Matthew Patten, *Jas. J. Gumbleton, *Wm. H. Shields, *Patrick J. Hanbury, *Bernard Reilly, Wm. Baird, Bernard Galligan, Neil Bryant, Wm. H. Burns, J. E. Hassen.

The names marked with a star (*) are reappointments. Mr. JAMES RYAN was selected as one of the deputies, but resigned in favor of Mr. CUMMINS. Messrs. BROWN, HALL and VANDERPOOL have been appointed counsel to the Sheriff.

Statistics of the Week—Marriages and Deaths, Fires, &c.

During the past week the Police made 1,541 arrests, being the same number made the previous week.

The Vital Statistics show 44 still-births, 357 births, 136 marriages and 457 deaths.

Fire-Marshal MCSPEDON reports 30 fires during the week ending at noon yesterday, with an estimated loss of $40,113, of which $32,000 was by one fire, leaving an average loss by each of the others of $279 76. Eight of the fires were caused by carelessness, one by sparks from a fire engine, two by kerosene lamp explosions, and the others originated in various accidental causes.

There were 81 males and 652 females furnished with employment through the Free Labor Bureau during last week.

A QUEER STORY.

How an Honest Merchant Found Himself in the Character of a Thief—Singular Experiences of the Victim.

Mr. JOSEPH SOLOMON is a dealer in diamonds and jewelry at No. 2 Park-row, and in all his mercantile as well as social life has never had the slightest suspicion or stain against his character. But at last he innocently fell into a snare, and came to grief. His experiences as a man accused of burglary, grand larceny and receiving stolen goods were very strange, and their narration may throw some light upon the manner in which the law is administered in our Police Courts.

During the month of August, a well-dressed man frequently called at Mr. SOLOMON'S store, and, by making sundry small purchases, ostensibly for the trade, gained the tradesman's confidence as a man engaged in a small itinerant business, as are thousands of others in this large City. When the customer called he either paid cash or exchanged articles of value, and no suspicion was entertained by Mr. SOLOMON that he was engaged in any illegitimate business. In the month of September the man called again, and pointing to a ring in the window, expressed a desire to purchase it, but he stated that he had very little money, though he had a lot of kid gloves on hand that might be acceptable in part payment. The gloves proved to be of good quality, and the jeweler agreed to take six dozen, value $60, and the remainder of the price of the ring in money. The customer received his ring, and the gloves were thrown into the window in order to attract a chance customer. There they remained fully exposed for several days, when Mr. SOLOMON found that they were being soiled, so he notified a friend in the cloth-trade that he desired to sell them in bulk at a low advance. The merchant knew of no one who needed gloves, but purchased three pair for his own use. A few days after this a detective attached to the Central Office called upon Mr. SOLOMON, and stated that the gloves sold by him had been identified as stolen property, and that Justice DOWLING had received a complaint to that effect. The detective added that no warrant had been issued, as the Judge did not consider it necessary, and requested Mr. SOLOMON to call at the Tombs at 2 o'clock and make proper explanation. Although the jeweler had already made another appointment, he canceled it, and was in Court at the hour named. There he sat until near 4, the hour for closing, when he was called up and asked how he got the gloves. Mr. SOLOMON narrated the circumstances, and expressed the belief that he could assist the officers in tracing out the person who had sold him the goods. He then learned that a burglary had been committed on the previous 4th of July in the store of GEORGE W. VOGEL, No. 1,202 Chestnut-street, Philadelphia, though no intimation whatever was given him that he was suspected of any connection with the offense. Suddenly the Magistrate exclaimed, "I will hold this man until you can get a requisition from Gov. GEARY," directing his remarks to a companion of the New-York detective, who proved to be a Philadelphia officer. Scarcely had the Justice announced his decision when he arose from his seat and closed the Court.

A few minutes after that Mr. SOLOMON found himself in a cell in the Tombs Prison, though he was unaware of the precise charge made against him, so hurriedly were the proceedings gone through with. He had not been in the cell five minutes, however, before the door was unlocked and the keeper escorted him to a small room near the entrance, where he found a short, stout man awaiting his coming. The following conversation then ensued:

STRANGER—This is a serious charge against you, Mr. SOLOMON, and they want heavy bail.

Mr. SOLOMON—Really, Sir, I don't know anything about it, nor do I know who I've the honor of addressing.

STRANGER—Oh, you don't know me. I'm Counselor H——.

Mr. SOLOMON—Well, I have not asked for you.

STRANGER—Oh, that's all right. You are accused of burglary and receiving stolen goods, and the bail is fixed at $20,000. But I can fix it for you very easily.

Mr. SOLOMON—Really, Sir, I don't know why you should interest yourself. I don't know any counsel that I'm aware of.

The counselor then abandoned his client, who remained in his cell all the next day, (Sunday,) and on Monday was informed by the keeper that his counsel wished to see him. "I have no counsel," quoth Mr. SOLOMON, "there must be some mistake." "Why," replied the keeper, "it's Mr. H's partner." Mr. SOLOMON then said he would not see the counsel, and expressed no very flattering opinion of the firm. This secured him from further molestation, and on the following Wednesday he was removed to Philadelphia on the requisition. The same day he was arraigned before a magistrate in the latter city and accused of burglary, larceny and the receipt of stolen goods, though all the evidence produced against him was that afforded voluntarily by himself to the detectives. He was, however, held for trial in the sum of $5,000 bail, and committed to Moyamensing Prison. He was kept there for ten days, until his friends discovered his whereabouts, and secured his release by giving bail. A few days ago Mr. SOLOMON had his trial before Judge PAXSON, in the Philadelphia Quarter Sessions, on the three counts, and the jury acquitted him instantly, without leaving their seats.

Mr. SOLOMON is, however, much puzzled on two or three points. Why he was locked up without a proper hearing? How the counsel found out his case, and how he intended to "fix" it so easily? He is also astonished that a New-York Magistrate should demand four times as much bail as was required by the Justice in Philadelphia, where he was entirely unknown. The entire experience of the gentleman affords a curious study to all honest business men.

The Recent Stabbing Occurrence in West-Street—Probable Indictment of the Steamer Morro Castle's Chief Cook for Manslaughter.

An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner FLYNN in the case of JOHN CRONIN, who died from the effects of a wound sustained on the 2d inst. in West-street, at the hands of ROBERT GUILES, chief cook of the steam-ship *Morro Castle*.

ERNEST HEILERS, a bar-tender at No. 85 West-street, saw the men quarrel, and CRONIN attempt to strike the prisoner. A struggle then ensued, and GUILES struck CRONIN in the forehead with a glass he happened to have in his hand. Dr. DANIEL MCEWEN testified that the deceased told him that his wound on the forehead had been inflicted with a glass. The wound was properly cleaned and sewed up, but CRONIN failed to return until three days after, when the wound was found to have become inflamed. CRONIN told the witness that he had been drinking and fell on a stove. WILLIAM MILLER, a pastry-cook on board the steamship, testified that CRONIN was of a quarrelsome disposition when under the influence of liquor, and that while the steam-ship was coming into port he quarreled with GUILES, the head cook, and attempted to stab him with a large carving-knife. The other cooks had taken the weapon from him, but CRONIN had threatened to get square with GUILES. The jury decided that CRONIN'S death was the direct result of injuries sustained by a fall on a stove while suffering from a wound inflicted by the prisoner. GUILES was held to bail in the sum of $1,000 to await the action of the Grand Jury.

Attempt to Release a Burglar at the Tombs—Plot by a Young Woman for His Escape.

MINNIE LEE, a nice-looking young woman, residing at No. 128 West Tenth-street, applied for admission to the Tombs prison yesterday, in order to visit JAMES THOMPSON, a notorious and desperate burglar, now awaiting trial at the General Sessions. She had a dinner-pail in her hand, containing coffee, and a large dish containing baked beans, which she pretended to have brought for the prisoner. The woman acted in a nervous manner, and so attracted the attention of the keeper, and he proceeded to examine the pail, finding it made with a false bottom, which was filled by a coil of rope fully thirty feet long, and neatly covered by hot coffee. MINNIE was at once arrested, and the cell occupied closely examined, the search being rewarded by the discovery of two old knife-blades, a patent jointed steel jimmy, and a couple of roughly-made spring saws, intended to sever iron bars. When the prisoner was arraigned before Justice DOWLING, at the Tombs Police Court, she was fully committed for trial, in default of $1,000 bail. After MINNIE was removed to a cell, the plate of beans was examined, and found to contain a handsomely-made spring saw handle, a small steel wedge, and ten or twelve beautiful watch-spring saws. With all of these tools, had he obtained possession of them, THOMPSON would have found no difficulty in escaping from his cell, and probably from the prison, during the night.

LAW REPORTS.

BROOKLYN CITY COURT.

Before Judge Thompson.

ACTION ON AN ATTORNEY'S BILL.

Nathaniel F. Waring vs. Henry A. Archer.—This action came up yesterday, on a motion for reference. It is brought against the defendant individually, to recover $3,861 29, for services rendered by the plaintiff to the defendant, as executor of the will of Joseph Burke, formerly of Savannah, Ga. The defendant claims that he is not individually liable for services rendered to him in his representative capacity. He alleges that the plaintiff was employed to draw the will of Joseph Burke, in accordance with instructions furnished by him. Burke died in this city in April, 1865, the owner of property in England and Georgia worth about $250,000, a large part of which was to have been devised to Archer and his infant son, and the plaintiff drew the will and caused it to be executed in such a blundering way that the defendant has lost about $30,000, which he would have had if the will had been properly drawn and executed. He demands judgment for this sum. The counsel for the defendant opposed the motion for a reference on the ground that by the Constitution every man has a right to a jury trial in any action at law, and that difficult and extraordinary questions of law will arise on the trial, which can only be properly decided by the Court. Decision was reserved. A. F. Waring for plaintiff; Piper and Flammer and Ex-Judge Reynolds for defendant.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

Sales at the Stock Exchange—DEC. 24.

$11,000 U.S. 5-20 C.,'65,n.	109⅞	10 N. Y. C. & H. R. Consol'd	91
5,500 do	109⅞	100 do b. c. c.	90⅞
1,500 U. S. 5-20 C., '62	107⅛	5000 N.Y.C.& H. R.Cts	87⅛
50,000 U.S.5-20 C.,'67.s3.	109⅞	10000 do c.	87⅜
10,000 do b3.	110	100 Reading	98⅜
12,000 do	109⅞	200 do c.	98⅛
100,000 do b30.	110⅛	100 Erie	23⅞
10,000 do	110	100 do c.	23¾
20,000 U. S. 5-20 C., '68.	110⅛	100 Harlem	132½
20,000 U. S. 5s, 10-40 C.	106⅛	100 L. S. & Mich. So	91⅜
5,000 do	106⅞	100 do s3.	91⅛
3,000 Tenn. 6s, old	63	300 do	91¼
10,000 Tenn. 6s, new	62¼	100 Ohio & Miss c.	27⅜
20,000 do	62⅜	100 do	27¼
20,000 do	62½	700 do c.	27⅜
21,000 Va. 6s, old	67¼	200 do c.	27¼
5,000 S. Car. 6s, new, Jan. & July	68	200 do b3.	27¾
8,000 Mo. 6s	93	300 do	27½
1,000 Erie 2d, '79	91	100 Chi. & R. I	103⅜
2,000 Union Pac. 1st	78	100 do c.	103⅜
27,000 U. P. 7s, L. G. B.	57	50 Panama	75¾
1,000 Q. & Tol. 1st	82	200 Chi. & N. W.	70⅜
4,000 Chi. & Alt. 1st	103	200 Chi. & N. W. Pf. b5	80⅝
17,000 C., C. & Ind. 1st	81⅜	200 do c.	80⅛
40 Ocean Bank	70	200 do b3.	80½
100 Pacific Mail	39⅛	300 do	80⅜
50 West. Union Tel	45	400 Tol., W. & West. s3.	48
100 do s60.	45⅛	200 do s3.	47⅞
100 do	45½	100 Mil. & St. Paul	55⅜
15 Morris & Essex	86	400 do b30.	55⅞
200 Del., L. & W. b.c.	102⅛	50 Mil. & St. P. Pf	79⅞
10 U. S. Express	33¼	50 Pitts. & F. W.C.G.	92¾

SATURDAY, Dec. 24—P. M.

The Stock Brokers made half a Holiday at the Exchange Board, and adjourned early for Christmas preparations.

Money ruled active through the day at 7 ₱ cent. on call loan. In the Afternoon the offerings increased from lenders, on the calculation of placing their balances until Tuesday, over the Christmas, making three days' interest, as it were, in one.

The sales of Gold were steady at 110⅛@110⅝ ₱ cent., and the speculation dull. Foreign Bills 109 ₱ cent. 60 days, London.

The Bank Averages of the week are lower on Loans by $1,567,789; on Deposits by $3,275,637; on Greenbacks by $702,392; and higher on Gold by $409,183 than on the previous statement.

The Treasury Office received for Customs for the week $1,945,082, and paid out $328,455 Gold Interest on the Public Debt.

At the Stock Exchange the Public Funds were very quiet, no afternoon dealings being had at the Board, and very few on the Street. The Southern State Bonds left off steady. The Railway Mortgages were lower on Union Pacifics. The New-York and Western Railways were generally better in prices than on Friday, and rather firm at the close of business. After the close of the Long Room the following quotations were made as compared with Friday night:

CLOSING QUOTATIONS—DEC. 24.

	Friday.	Saturday.
United States 10-40s	106½	106⅝
United States 5-20s of 1862	107⅝	107⅝
United States 5-20s of 1867	110	110
American Gold	110½	110⅜
Bills on London, 60 days	109	109
New Bonds of Tennessee	62½	62½
New-York Central and Hudson	90⅞	91
N. Y. C. & H. Debt Certificates	87½	87½
Reading Railroad	98⅝	98⅝
Chicago and Rock Island	103⅞	103⅞
North-west Common	70⅛	70½
North-west Preferred	80½	81⅛
Pacific Mail Company	39⅛	39⅜
St. Paul Preferred	79⅛	80⅛
St. Paul Common	55⅛	55⅜
Lake Shore	91⅛	91⅜
Ohio and Mississippi	27⅜	27⅝
Toledo and Wabash	48	48⅜
Western Telegraph	45⅝	45⅜
Erie	23⅜	23⅞

The following bids were made for the various Public Funds of the United States:

6 ₱ cent. reg., '81	109⅝	5-20 coup., '67	109⅞
6 ₱ cent. coup., '81	113	5-20 coup., '68	110⅛
5-20 coup., '62	107⅛	10-40 reg	106⅛
5-20 coup., '65	106⅞	10-40 coup	106⅜
5-20 coup., n. i. '65	109⅛	6's Currency	109⅛
5-20 coup., '65	106⅞		

And the following for the State Bonds:

Tennessee 6s, old	63	Kentucky 6s	99
Tenn. 6s, new bs	62½	Ill. Canal Bonds, '70	97
Virginia 6s, old	67	Ill. Coupon 6s, '77	97
Va 6s, new bs	63	Ill. Coupon 6s, '79	97
North Car. 6s, old	44½	Ill. War Loan	97
North Car. F. Act, '66	32	Mich. 6 ₱ ct., '73	100
North Car. F. Act, '68	27	Mich. 6 ₱ ct., '78	100
N. Car. New Bonds	23	Mich. 6 ₱ ct., '83	100
N. Car. Special Tax	18	Mich. 7 ₱ ct., '78	100
South Car. 6s	80	N. Y. Reg. Bounty L.	103¼
South Car. 6s, new bs	67½	N. Y. Coup. Bounty L.	107¼
Missouri 6s	93	N. Y. 6s, Canal L., '72	102½
Mo. 6s, H. & St. Jo. ls	92⅜	N. Y. 6s, Canal L., '73	102½
California 7s	112	N. Y. 6s, Canal L., '74	102½
Connecticut 6s	102½	N. Y. 6s, Canal L., '75	102½
Arkansas 6s, funded	64	N. Y. 6s, Canal L., '77	102½
Ohio 6 ₱ ct., '81	100	N. Y. 6s, Canal L., '78	102½
Ohio 6 ₱ ct., '86	100	N. Y. 5s, Canal L., '74	100

And the following for the Railway Mortgages:

N. Y. Cen. 6s, '83	89½	Gt. West. 1st, '68	100
N. Y. Cen. 6s, '87	86	Gt. West. 1st, '88	89
N. Y. Cen. 6s, R. Est.	86	Gt. West. 2d, '93	80
N. Y. Cen. 6s, Subsc'n.	86	Q. & Tol. 1st, '90	81½
N. Y. Cen. 7s, '76	101	Gal. & Chi. Ex	100
N. Y. Cen. 7s, Con., '76	100⅞	Chi., R. I. & Pac	99⅝
N. Y. Cen. 7s, '65-'76	100⅜	Clev. & Tol. S. F	100⅝
Erie 7s, 2d Ind., '79	99⅛	N. J. Cen. 2d	100
Erie 7s, 2d Ind., '83	85	N. J. Cen. New Bds	103
Erie 7s, 4th Ind., '80	88	Pitts., F. W. & C. 1st	103
Buf., N. Y. & E. 1st, '77	87	Pitts., F. W. & C. 2d	97
Hud. R. 7s, 2d S.F., '55	101	Clev. & Pitts. C. S. F.	81
Harlem 1st	100⅛	Clev. & Pitts. 2d	98
Har. Con. M. & S. F.	90	Clev. & Pitts. 3d	94
Chi., B. & Q. 8 ₱ c. 1st	111⅛	Chi. & Alt. S. F.	98
M. S. & N. I. S. F. 7 ₱ c.	97	Chi. & Alt. 1st	102¼
Cen. Pac. Bds	92¾	Chi. & Alt. Inc	92
Un. Pac. 1st Bds	77½	Ohio & Miss. 1st	99¾
Un. Pac. L. G. 7s	56	Ohio & Miss. Consol	88¾
Un. Pac. Inc. 10s	39	Dub. & Sioux City 1st	95
Ill. Cen. 7 ₱ c., '75	106	Peninsula Bds	89½
Alt. & T. H. 1st	96	St. L. & Iron M. 1st	89
Alt. & T. H. 2d Pf	81	Mil. & St. P. 1st 8s	104¼
Alt. & T. H. 2d Inc	70	M. & St. P. 1st, 7 3-10	93½
Chi. & N. W. S. F.	90	Mil. & St. P. 1st	91½
Chi. & N. W. Int. Bds	88	Mil. & St. P. I. & M. d	89
Chi. & N. W. 1st	94¼	Mil. & St. P. 2d	85
Lack. & West. Bds	100	Chi. & Mil. 1st	90
Del., Lack. & W. 2d	95	Col., Chi. & Ind. 1st	81½
Tol. & Wab. 1st Ex	94½	Tol., P. & War., W. D.	80
Tol. & Wab. 2d	84½		

And the following for the City Bank Stocks and Miscellaneous Shares:

New-York	x132	Continental	92
Manhattan	150	N. Y. Nat. Ex. Bank	100
Merchants'	x112	Fourth National	104⅛
Mechanics'	x132	Ninth National	107
Union	137	Gold Exchange	70
America	x140	Del. & Hud. Canal	118¾
City	220	Pennsylvania Coal	220
Phenix	107½	American Coal	80
Tradesmen's	152	Spring Mount'n Coal	41
Fulton	150	Canton Co., Balt	65
Mechanics' & Trad's	135	Western Union Tel	45⅛
National	116	Quicksilver Mining	5
Merchants' Ex	99	Quicksilver Prefer'd	7¾
Leather Manufac's'	200	Mariposa Mining	5
State of New-York	110	Mariposa Preferred	9½
Broadway	288	Adams Express	64
Ocean	72	Wells-Fargo Ex	31½
Mercantile	124	Wells-Fargo Ex. S'p	2
Bank of Republic	115	American Express	41
Bank of N. America	106	U. S. Express	32½
Irving	118½	Pacific Mail	39⅛
Corn Exchange	x125		

PHILADELPHIA STOCKS—DEC. 24.

Telegraphed to Messrs. E. D. Randolph & Co.

	Bid.	Asked.
City 6s, Old	98⅛	98⅝
City 6s, New	99⅝	99⅞
Camden and Amboy	118½	119
Pennsylvania Central	61⅝	61¾
Reading	98⅛	98¾
Lehigh Valley	58¾	58⅞
Catawissa Preferred	37¼	37½
Philadelphia and Erie	26⅝	26⅞
Northern Central	41	41¼
Lehigh Navigation	33	33¼
Lehigh Gold Loan	85⅜	86

The Bull's Head Bank has declared a Quarterly Dividend of *Five ₱ cent.*, payable Dec. 30.

The Manufacturers' and Merchants' Bank has declared a Half-Yearly Dividend of *Four ₱ cent.*, payable Dec. 31.

The North River Bank has declared a Half-Yearly Dividend of *Three and a Half ₱ cent.*, payable Dec. 31.

The Security Bank has declared a Half-Yearly Dividend of *Four ₱ cent.*, payable Dec. 31.

The Citizens' Bank has declared a Half-Yearly Dividend of *Five ₱ cent.*, payable Dec. 31.

The Tradesmen's Bank has declared a Half-Yearly Dividend of *Six ₱ cent.*, payable Dec. 31.

The earnings of the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad for the second week in December were as follows:

From passengers	$7,622
From freight	23,989
From miscellaneous	1,119
Total	$32,731
Corresponding week last year	21,810
Increase	$10,921

The following is the latest report from the Controller of Tennessee as to the mode of paying the Interest due the State by the solvent Railroads. It would seem that their managers buy up the cheapest State obligations they can find to pay into the Treasury as Cash for Interest:

CONTROLLER'S OFFICE,
NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 19, 1870.

To Members of House of Representatives, now in session:

GENTLEMEN—In obedience to House resolution, passed on the 17th of December, 1870, I herewith submit you statements showing what railroads have paid into the State Treasury since 1st October, 1870, and on what account, and in what kind of funds. Would most respectfully report that the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad Company paid into the Treasury on Dec. 12, 1870:

Nine bonds of the State of Tennessee, for $1,000 each	$9,000
Ninety-one past due coupons, $30 each	2,730
Four past due coupons, $25 each	100
Total	$11,830

The Memphis and Ohio Railroad paid into the treasury on the 14th December, 1870:

Sixty-four bonds of the State of Tennessee, for $1,000	$64,000
Seven past due coupons, loose $30	210
Two hundred and fifty-six past due coupons on bonds, $30	7,680
Total	$71,890

The Mississippi Central and Tennessee Railroad Company paid into the treasury on the 12th December, 1870:

Thirty-two bonds of the State of Tennessee for $1,000	$32,000
One hundred and thirty-three past due coupons, $30	3,990
Total	$35,990

Respectfully submitted,
ED. R. PENNEBAKER, Controller, &c.

The aggregate amount of Imports (other than Dry Goods and specie) at the Port of New-York for the week ending Dec. 23, 1870, was $3,631,013.

The receipts from operations of the New-York, Providence and Boston Railroad for the years ending Aug. 31, 1869 and 1870, as reported by the *American Railroad Journal*, were as follows:

	1869.	1870.
From passengers	$368,333 73	$370,752 95
From freight	244,493 00	269,189 78
From mail service	12,351 54	9,296 88
From rents	10,478 74	7,413 99
From gas	993 04	1,132 23
From dividends Stonington St'mboat Company	62,238 00	72,611 00
From receipts under contract Fall River Line	......	9,692 38
Total	$699,188 05	$746,089 21
EXPENSES.		
Repairs of road	$88,506 78	$114,371 29
Repairs of engines	26,723 88	25,164 82
Repairs of cars	32,157 06	30,039 29
Repairs of bridges, &c	23,729 67	24,858 42
Ferry	17,624 67	17,056 01
General expenses, oil, &c	37,945 37	32,201 28
Salaries	9,966 71	11,725 86
Wages	97,301 40	103,692 59
Fuel	62,251 43	60,993 16
New cars	32,874 90	7,979 27
New engines	......	13,000 00
Taxes	33,970 70	34,402 25
Dredging	100 37	......
Water works	576 90	371 25
Total	$463,729 84	$480,755 49
Net earnings	235,458 21	265,333 72

From which deduct:

Dividends	$141,555 00
Unclaimed dividends paid	243 50
Interest on bonds	11,931 00
Interest on extra road bonds	15,000 00
Interest on improvement bonds	7,000 00
Interest on bonds issued 1869	30,395 75
Fire damage	2,674 49
New iron account	33,880 00
New machine shop and tools at Providence	15,582 91—258,262 65
Balance	$7,071 07

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET.

Balance cash assets from last annual report	$57,614 86
Less cash paid M. Morgan's Sons	15,956 28
Balance account, Aug. 31, 1869	$41,658 58
Receipts	746,086 21
Proceeds of bonds to cover balance of interest in Steam-boat Company—sold $42,000 at 95	39,900 00
Collections on account of balance due by Treasurer and Stonington Bank	2,000 00
Total	$829,647 79
Expenses	$480,755 49
Dividends	141,798 50
Interest	72,665 34
Cash paid for new iron	68,379 87
Machine-shop and tools at Providence	15,582 91
Fire damages	2,674 49
Balance cash assets carried to new account—	
Cash in hands M. Morgan's Sons	$17,120 20
A. S. Mathews, Superintendent	1,342 87
Connecting roads	28,000 00
Post-office Department	1,328 12—47,791 19
	$829,647 79

President, Samuel D. Babcock; Vice-President, D. S. Babcock; Directors, Samuel D. Babcock, James B. Johnston, Charles Morgan, William F. Cary, Jr., Nathan F. Dixon, John A. Burnham, David S. Babcock, Edward Morgan, S. B. Stone; Superintendent, A. S. Mathews; Treasurer, Henry Morgan; Secretary, B. F. Noyes.

FINANCIAL.

FOR SALE.

CHOICE

CITY AND COUNTY BONDS,

PAYING

10 PER CENT. & OVER,

FREE OF ALL TAXES.

PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST COUPONS PAYABLE IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

FIRST-CLASS SECURITIES OF UNDOUBTED CHARACTER, BELOW PAR.

GOVERNMENT AND OTHER SECURITIES

RECEIVED IN EXCHANGE AT THE BEST RATES, AND BONDS PURCHASED BY OUT-OF-TOWN RESIDENTS SENT BY EXPRESS FREE OF CHARGE.

TRUSTEES, EXECUTORS OF ESTATES, CAPITALISTS, AND OTHERS SEEKING RELIABLE INVESTMENTS ARE PURCHASING THESE LOANS.

ALSO, AN EXTENSIVE VARIETY OF OTHER SECURITIES FOR SAFE AND PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS AT LOW RATES. FOR SALE BY

ALBERT H. NICOLAY,

BANKER, STOCKBROKER AND AUCTIONEER,

NO. 43 PINE-ST.

N. B.—FIRST-CLASS INVESTMENT SECURITIES, PAYING LARGE RATES OF INTEREST, A SPECIALTY WITH THIS HOUSE FOR MANY YEARS.

V. K. STEVENSON. V. K. STEVENSON, JR.

V. K. STEVENSON & SON,

No. 11 Pine-st., New-York,

OFFER FOR SALE THE SOUTH AND NORTH ALABAMA RAILROAD 8 PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS, INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL IN GOLD.

GUARANTEED BY STATE OF ALABAMA.

Length of road from Montgomery to Decatur, 183 miles; 107 completed; iron and ties for 15 additional now on the ground, which will complete 122 miles, leaving but 61 to complete, upon which a large amount of work has been done. Land grant over 200,000 acres; local business good, and through connections unsurpassed.

Passenger and freight cars are now running over this road from Montgomery to Lime Kilns, which completes the AIR LINE to New-York, and insures a business more than sufficient to meet the interest on all bonds issued.

The Bond is three times secured.

First—By the mortgage on the land.

Second—By the Guarantee of the State of Alabama.

Third—By the LARGE capital INVESTED in the road.

Either of which is sufficient to secure the bonds. Price 95 and accrued interest, in currency. For map, pamphlets, &c., apply to or address the agents.

BROWN BROTHERS & CO.,

NO. 59 WALL-ST.,

issue COMMERCIAL and TRAVELERS' CREDITS AVAILABLE in all PARTS of the WORLD.

OFFICE OF THE ATLANTIC MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, NO. 51 WALL-ST., CORNER WILLIAM, NEW-YORK, Dec. 15, 1870.

THE BOOKS OF THIS COMPANY will close on the 31st inst., preparatory to its annual statement. Persons holding policies on risks terminating during the year prior to the 1st of January next, are requested to furnish an account of the premiums thereon and a statement of all claims for return of premiums, to prevent discrepancy in the accounts. J. H. CHAPMAN, Secretary.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY, NO. 145 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 22, 1870.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT on and after the 23d day of January, 1871, all transfers of stock of this Company will be made at the Union Trust Company in the City of New-York—that for the purpose of perfecting the change of the transfer-office to the Union Trust Company as required by resolution of the Board, the transfer-books will be closed at the close of business on the 31st day of December, instant, and remain closed until the morning of Jan. 23, 1871, then to be reopened at the office of said Union Trust Company. O. H. PALMER, Secretary and Treasurer.

MECHANICS' AND TRADERS' NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 24, 1870.

AN ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS of this institution for the ensuing year, and for three Inspectors for the next ensuing election, will be held at the banking-house on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 11, 1871.

Polls will be open from 2 to 3 o'clock. By order, GEO. W. YOULE, Cashier.

NATIONAL BUTCHERS' AND DROVERS' BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 10, 1870.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS of this Bank and for Inspectors of the next ensuing election, will be held at the banking-house, No. 124 Bowery, on TUESDAY, the 10th day of January next, between the hours of 12 and 1 P. M. G. G. BRINCKERHOFF, Cashier.

GROCERS' BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 19, 1870.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS of this Bank will be held at the banking-house, on the 10th day of January next, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock. SAMUEL B. WHITE, Cashier.

STUYVESANT BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1870.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR FIFTEEN Directors and three Inspectors of Election of this Bank will be held at their banking-house, No. 744 Broadway on TUESDAY, Jan. 3, 1871, between the hours of 12 M. and 1 P. M. JOHN VAN ORDEN, Cashier.

FINANCIAL.

JAMES G. KING'S SONS, BANKERS,

NO. 54 WILLIAM-ST., NEW-YORK.

Issue letters of credit on London and Paris, available in all the principal cities on the continent. Buy and sell exchange on London, Paris, Amsterdam, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

DIVIDENDS.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN MERCHANTS' UNION EXPRESS CO., NO. 113 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1870.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF this Company have declared a Dividend of Three Dollars per share, payable on and after the 16th day of January next.

The transfer books will be closed at 3 o'clock P. M. on the 28th day of December, and reopened at 10 o'clock A. M. on the 17th day of January next. JAMES C. FARGO, Assistant Treasurer.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE OF THE RONDOUT AND OSWEGO RAILROAD COMPANY, RONDOUT, N. Y., Dec. 12, 1870.

THE COUPONS DUE JAN. 1, 1871, on the First Mortgage Bonds of the Rondout and Oswego Railroad Company will be paid on presentation at the office of Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, in the City of New-York, on and after the 2d day of January, 1871. JOHN C. BRODHEAD, President.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, BOSTON, Dec. 16, 1870.

THE COUPONS OF THE FIRST Mortgage Bonds of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, due Jan. 1, 1871, will be paid in gold, free of Government tax, on and after that date, at the office of the Company in Boston and at the banking-house of Morton, Bliss & Co., New-York. Schedules of coupons will be received for examination on and after the 28th inst. JOHN M. S. WILLIAMS, Treasurer.

OFFICE OF LAWRENCE BROS. & CO., NO. 16 WALL-ST.

THE INTEREST COUPONS MATURING on the 1st day of January next on the First Mortgage Bonds of the Cleveland, Mount Vernon and Delaware Railroad Company will be paid in gold at the Office of LAWRENCE BROS. & CO., Bankers, No. 16 Wall-st. on and after that date. R. C. HURD, President.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 15, 1870.

BANK OF AMERICA, NEW-YORK, Dec. 16, 1870.

THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS of the Bank of America have this day declared a Dividend of Five per Cent. for the current six months, free from tax, payable to the stockholders on and after Friday, Dec. 30, 1870.

The transfer books will remain closed from this date until the morning of Jan. 3, 1871. ROBERT JAFFRAY, Cashier.

OFFICE OF THE SPRING MOUNTAIN COAL COMPANY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1870.

DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS have this day declared a dividend of SIX PER CENT., payable on and after Dec. 31, 1870.

The transfer-books will be closed from Dec 22 to 31st instant, both days inclusive. CHARLES RUNYON, Secretary and Treasurer.

IRVING NATIONAL BANK, GREENWICH-ST., CORNER WARREN, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1870.

A DIVIDEND OF FOUR PER CENT., free of tax, has this day been declared, payable on the 31st inst.

The transfer-books will remain closed until Jan. 3, 1871. J. L. JEWETT, JR., Cashier.

THE BANK OF NEW-YORK NATIONAL BANKING ASSOCIATION, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1870.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE this day declared a Dividend of Five (5) per Cent., free of tax, payable on and after 30th December next. The transfer-books will be closed until 5th January, 1871. W. B. MEEKER, Cashier.

NATIONAL BUTCHERS' AND DROVERS' BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1870.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE this day declared a Dividend of Five per Cent. from the earnings of the current six months, payable on the 30th inst.

The transfer-books will remain closed until the 3d proximo. G. G. BRINKERHOFF, Cashier.

WEST SIDE BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 17, 1870.

THE DIRECTORS OF THIS BANK have declared a dividend of Four (4) per Cent., free of tax, payable 30th inst.

The transfer-books will be closed this date, and opened on the 30th inst. JOHN W. B. DOBLER.

MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1870.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE this day declared a Dividend of Five per Cent., free of tax, payable to the stockholders on the 31st inst. The transfer-book will be closed from this date until Jan. 3, 1871. WM. H. COX, Cashier.

OFFICE OF THE HOUSTON AND TEXAS CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, No. 52 WALL-ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 22, 1870.

THE COUPONS OF THE FIRST MORTGAGE 7 per cent. Gold Bonds of this Company, due Jan. 1, 1871, will be paid on and after that date at the National City Bank, New-York. C. ENNIS, Controller.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, STATE OF ARKANSAS, LITTLE ROCK, Dec. 15, 1870.

THE COUPONS DUE JAN. 1, 1871, on the SIX per cent. Funded Debt Bonds, will be paid on and after that date upon presentation at the Union Trust Company in the City of New-York. HENRY PAGE, State Treasurer.

D. B. SICKELS, Financial Agent.

JOS. U. ORVIS, President. BENJ. H. DEWEY, Cashier.

THE SECURITY BANK OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, No. 319 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 23, 1870.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE this day declared the first Semi-annual Dividend of Four per Cent., payable Dec. 31. BENJ. H. DEWEY, Cashier.

THE IMPORTERS & TRADERS' NATIONAL BANK OF NEW-YORK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 17, 1870.

A DIVIDEND OF SIX PER CENT., out of the earnings of the past six months, free of all tax, has this day been declared by this bank, payable on the 31st inst.

The transfer-books will remain closed until the 3d proximo. E. H. PERRINS, JR., Cashier.

THE CHATHAM NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1870.

THIRTIETH DIVIDEND.—THE DIRECTORS of this Bank have this day declared a dividend of Eight (8) per Cent. out of the earnings of the past six months free of all tax, payable on and after the 30th inst. The transfer-books will remain closed until Jan. 3, 1871. GEO. M. HARD, Cashier.

FOURTH NATIONAL BANK OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 15, 1870.

A DIVIDEND OF FOUR PER CENT., free of all tax, has been this day declared, payable 30th inst. The transfer-books will close 24th inst., P. M., and open Jan. 3, A. M. ANTHONY LANE, Cashier.

NATIONAL BROADWAY BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 17, 1870.

FORTY-SECOND DIVIDEND.—A Semi-annual Dividend of Three Dollars per share on the capital stock of this bank, will be paid on, and after the 27th day of December, inst. J. L. EVERITT, Cashier.

ATLANTIC NATIONAL BANK, NO. 142 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1870.

DIVIDEND.—THE DIRECTORS OF THE Atlantic National Bank have this day declared a Semi-annual Dividend of Four (4) per Cent., free of all tax, payable on Friday, the 30th instant. The transfer-books will be closed from Dec. 21 until Jan. 3, 1871. F. L. TAINTOR, Cashier.

METROPOLITAN NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 6, 1870.

DIVIDEND.—THE DIRECTORS OF THE Metropolitan National Bank have this day declared a Dividend of 5 (Five) per Cent., free of tax, payable 30th inst.

The transfer-books will be closed on 24th inst. GEORGE I. SENEY, Cashier.

DIVIDEND.—PEOPLE'S BANK OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.—A Dividend of Five (5) per Cent. has this day been declared, payable to the stockholders on the 30th inst. The transfer-books are closed from this date until Jan. 3, 1871. By order of the Board of Directors. GEORGE M. ZABRISKIE, Cashier.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 2, 1870.

WEST WISCONSIN RAILROAD COMPANY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 22, 1870.

THE COUPONS OF THE WEST Wisconsin Railroad Land Grand Bonds, payable in New-York, and due 1st January, 1871, will be paid on and after that date, on presentation at the banking office of White, Morris & Co., No. 29 Wall-st. WM. J. OSBORN, Treasurer.

MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK, OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 17, 1870.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE this day declared a dividend of Three per Cent., free of tax, payable on the 31st of December, 1870. The transfer-books will be closed from the 20th inst. to Jan. 3, 1871. A. S. APGAR, Cashier.

THE NASSAU FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, NOS. 25 AND 30 COURT-ST., BROOKLYN, Dec. 20, 1870.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF this Company have THIS DAY declared a semi-annual Dividend of Ten per cent. payable Dec. 27, 1870. WILLIAM T. LANE, Secretary.

THE SOUTH AND NORTH ALABAMA RAILROAD COMPANY interest coupons, maturing Jan. 1, 1871, will be paid IN GOLD, at the Importers' and Traders' National Bank on and after that date. V. K. STEVENSON & SON, Financial Agents.

GROCERS' BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 19, 1870.

THE DIRECTORS OF THIS BANK have declared a Dividend of Five per Cent., payable to the stockholders on the 30th inst. SAMUEL B. WHITE, Cashier.

THE NASHVILLE AND CHATTANOOGA RAILROAD COMPANY interest coupons, maturing Jan. 1, 1871, will be paid at the Importers' and Traders' National Bank on and after that date. V. K. STEVENSON & SON, Financial Agents.

THE ORIENTAL BANK.—A DIVIDEND of Six per Cent., from the earnings of the past six months, has this day been declared, payable on FRIDAY, Dec. 30, inst.

The transfer-books will remain closed until that date. HENRY T. CHAPMAN, JR., Cashier.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 17, 1870.

ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC RAILROAD.—The semi-annual coupons of these bonds will be paid on and after THURSDAY, Dec. 29, in gold, at the National Shoe and Leather Bank, in New-York, or at the Company's office in Boston. WM. A. HAYES, Treasurer.

SOUTH PACIFIC RAILROAD OF MISSOURI.—The semi-annual coupons of these bonds will be paid on or after THURSDAY, Dec. 29, in gold, free of tax, at the National Shoe and Leather Bank, in New-York, or at the Company's office in Boston. WM. A. HAYES, Treasurer.

TRADESMEN'S NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 23, 1870.

A DIVIDEND OF SIX PER CENT., free of tax, has been declared payable Dec. 31. ANTHONY HALSEY, Cashier.

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE IN NEW-YORK.—DIVIDEND.—A semi-annual dividend of Four (4) per cent. on the capital stock of this Bank has been declared, payable on Dec. 30. H. F. VAIL, Cashier.

DRY GOODS.

REDUCTIONS.

Unusual Opportunities

FOR

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

LORD & TAYLOR,

ON

Tuesday, Dec. 27,

OFFER AT RETAIL

The entire balance of their stock of Silks, Dress Goods, Alpacas, Poplins, Empress Cloths, Merinoes, Delaines, Cashmeres, &c., at greatly reduced prices.

French Merinoes at 50c., worth 87½c.

Silk Department.

All the new shades of Silk for dinner and evening wear at reduced prices.

Also, Striped Silks at 75c. per yard, worth $1 25.

Lace and Embroidery Department.

Rich Laces, Handkerchiefs, Embroideries, Fancy Goods, &c., &c., at unusually low prices.

Ladies' and Children's Furnishing Department.

Ladies' Suits and Dresses, Evening Dresses, Children's Suits and Dresses, Under-clothing, Underwear, Infants' Wardrobes, Bridal Outfits, &c., at low prices, and made to order at short notice.

Shawl Department.

The entire stock in this department, with some choice India Camel's Hair Long Shawls, at two-thirds the price of importation, and especially adapted for presents.

Fur Department.

A choice collection of Furs of all grades, at low prices, and suitable for holiday presents.

Cloak Department.

Astrakhan, Velvet and Cloth Cloaks in all styles. A large assortment of Cloaks at $12, reduced from $25.

Upholstery Department.

All our stock of Upholstery Goods, Linens, &c., &c., at greatly reduced prices. Practical upholsterers to attend to orders.

Gent's Furnishing Dep't.

A large assortment of Gentlemen's Furnishing Goods, in Shirts, Collars, Cuffs, Ties, Scarfs, Underwear, Hosiery, Gloves, Suspenders, &c. Shirts made to order, and fit guaranteed.

LORD & TAYLOR,

BROADWAY AND 20TH-ST.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

O'SULLIVAN & GREIG,

NO. 771 BROADWAY,

CORNER OF 9TH-ST,

ARE OFFERING

GREAT BARGAINS

IN

CLOAKS,

SEAL SKIN CLOAKS FROM $60 UP.
ASTRAKHAN CLOAKS FROM $20 UP.
VELVET CLOAKS FROM $50 UP.
CLOTH CLOAKS FROM $3 UP.

A splendid assortment of Fancy Jackets and Evening Cloaks, suitable for presents, very cheap.

100 Rich Suits from $12 upward, worth more than double.

A CHOICE VARIETY OF
DRESS GOODS, CLOTHS,
CLOAKINGS, VELVETEENS,
AND
MOURNING GOODS.
FURS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
LACES, EMBROIDERIES, SASHES, TIES, HOSIERY, GLOVES, &c.
LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S FURNISHING GOODS.
NOVELTIES IN
FRENCH ORGANDIE EVENING DRESSES
AND
OVER-SKIRTS.
BOUDER'S CELEBRATED KID GLOVES, NOT ADVANCED IN PRICE.
These are the Best Gloves imported.

Over FIVE THOUSAND GLOVE, HANDKERCHIEF and other FANCY BOXES, from 12 cents upward.

Their entire stock is marked down to LESS THAN COST, preparatory to taking stock.

O'SULLIVAN & GREIG,
NO. 771 BROADWAY, CORNER OF 9TH-ST.

A. T. STEWART & CO.
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
PER STEAM-SHIP "SIDONIAN," DIRECT FROM MARSEILLES, AN ADDITIONAL INSTALLMENT OF
POPULAR SILKS,
WHICH WILL BE OFFERED ON MONDAY, DEC. 26,
AT THE EXTRAORDINARY LOW PRICES OF LAST WEEK, VIZ.:
NEW STRIPED FANCY SILKS, DOUBLE SIDED, 75 CENTS PER YARD.
NEW STRIPED FANCY SILKS, HEAVIER GRADE, 87½ CENTS PER YARD.
RECENTLY SOLD AT $1 50 PER YARD.
TWO CASES OF GRISAILLE STRIPED SILKS, PERFECTLY NEW, $1 PER YARD, THEIR PRESENT VALUE, $1 50 PER YARD.
HEAVY LYONS BLACK DRESS SILKS, $1 50 AND $1 75 PER YARD.
PLAIN DRESS SILKS, IN LIGHT AND DARK COLORS, $1 50 AND $1 75 PER YARD.
AMERICAN BLACK SILKS, GUARANTEED TO WASH AND WEAR WELL, $2 PER YARD.
FRENCH AND IRISH POPLINS, ALL QUALITIES AND SHADES, 75 CENTS TO $2 PER YARD.
BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS.

A. T. STEWART & CO.
HAVE REPLENISHED THEIR
ROTUNDA SILK DEPARTMENT
WITH A
LARGE AND EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE ASSORTMENT OF
BLACK DRESS SILKS.
ALSO, EVERY NOVELTY IN
PLAIN, COLORED AND FANCY SILKS, FROM $2 PER YARD UPWARD.
BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS.

A. T. STEWART & CO.
HAVE JUST RECEIVED FIVE CASES
COLORED MERINOS,
COMPRISING
CRIMSON, MAROON, BROWNS,
WITH A CHOICE ASSORTMENT OF
CLOTH COLORS.
TWO CASES EXTRA QUALITY
BLACKS,
ONE CASE VERY FINE QUALITY
DRAP DE FRANCE.
THE ABOVE WILL BE OPENED ON
MONDAY, DEC. 26,
IN THE DRESS GOODS DEPARTMENT, ON THE BROADWAY SIDE.

BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS.

HAIR! HAIR!

SHAW'S PATENT HAIR SWITCHES AND CHIGNONS, equal to human hair, can be combed, brushed and dressed over.

HUMAN HAIR, cheapest in the country.

SWITCHES, one yard long, $8.

CURLS, $1 per set and upward.

Latest styles on hand. Ladies' own chignons dressed for 25 cents. Only depot, No. 358 Bowery, near 4th-st.

NOTICE.—Any one who counterfeits or infringes on my patent will be dealt with according to law.

DRY GOODS.

GENUINE FURS.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.

Will offer, during the season, SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS in

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S FURS.
SABLE, MINK, ERMINE,
SEAL AND
ASTRAKHAN CLOAKS,
CARRIAGE ROBES,
FUR TRIMMINGS, &c., &c.,
AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES.

BROADWAY, CORNER 19TH-ST.

CHEAP SILKS
FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.
Are now offering
FANCY STRIPED POULT DE SOIES at 75c. and $1 per yard; former price $1 25 and $1 75.
PLAIN AND CORDED CHANGEABLE SILKS.
PARIS QUALITY, RICH HIGH LUSTRE,
AT $1 25 PER YARD, (value $2 25.)
ALSO,
A fine assortment of PLAIN, COLORED, FANCY, FIGURED and BLACK SILKS, (Lyons manufacture,)
AT EQUALLY LOW PRICES.

BROADWAY, CORNER 19TH-ST.

GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING DEPARTMENT.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO. have now open a new and elegant line of LADIES' and GENTS' SCARFS AND TIES.

NEW SHAPES AND COLORS, SUITABLE FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS, &c.

A large and choice assortment of
GENTLEMEN'S ROBES DE CHAMBRE
AND BREAKFAST JACKETS,
AT POPULAR PRICES.
SPECIALTY.
ROBES DE CHAMBRE, BREAKFAST JACKETS, SHIRTS, COLLARS AND CUFFS, made to order.
ALSO,
HOSIERY AND UNDER-GARMENTS, of every description.

BROADWAY, CORNER 19TH-ST.

LACES AND FRENCH EMBROIDERIES
AT
PANIC PRICES.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO. have now open a large and valuable stock of these goods at ABOUT ONE-HALF THE COST OF PRODUCTION, having been purchased of the manufacturers, at RUINOUS SACRIFICE IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE PRUSSIAN ADVANCE.

BROADWAY, CORNER 19TH-ST.

N. B.—THIS STORE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, DEC. 26.

AT JACKSON'S,

Broadway and Waverley-Place,

BARGAINS.

ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF

BLACK DRESS MATERIALS,

REDUCED TO LESS THAN COST OF IMPORTATION.

ALSO, CLOAKINGS, WATER-PROOF CLOTHS, &c.

BLACK ALPACAS, 30c., worth 50c.

LUSTER CORDED POPLINS, 50c., worth 90c.

VIENNA CASHMERE CLOTH,

1¾ yards wide, $1 25, worth $1 75,

AND CHEAP AT THAT.

N. B.—Complete outfits for MOURNING, ready-made, always on hand.

Orders promptly executed.

NICHOLS, BURTNETT & CO.

ARE OFFERING BARGAINS IN

FINE FURS,

ASTRAKHAN SACKS, SEAL SACKS,
ERMINE, MINK AND SABLE,
BLACK MARTEN,
IN MUFFS, BOAS AND TRIMMING.
NO. 477 BROADWAY.

BRIDAL DRESSES.

A. T. STEWART & CO.
HAVE ON HAND ONE EXTRA
RICH SATIN DRESS,
EN TRAIN, TRIMMED WITH LACE,
PRICE, $250; ORIGINAL COST, $450.
ONE WHITE
VELOUR OTTOMAN DRESS,
ALSO TRIMMED WITH LACE. PRICE, $200; COST, $600.
THESE WERE MANUFACTURED IN PARIS BY THE CELEBRATED HOUSE OF WORTH.

BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS

A. T. STEWART & CO.,
FOR THE ACCOMMODATION OF THEIR CUSTOMERS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE CITY,
HAVE OPENED,
ON THE 4TH-AV. SIDE,
IN THE SECTION NEXT TO THEIR NEW ADDITIONAL SILK DEPARTMENT,
AN IMMENSE VARIETY OF
SHAWLS,
$3 EACH AND UPWARD.
HEAVY SEAL-CLOTH SACKES,
ONLY $4 EACH.
CHEVIOT WOOL SUITS,
$5 EACH.
POPLIN SUITS, DOUBLE SKIRTS,
FLOUNCED AND HANDSOMELY TRIMMED,
ONLY $5 AND $6 EACH.
BLACK ALPACA SUITS, $6.
SUITS MADE FROM
DIAGONAL AND SABLE CLOTH,
$10 EACH.
(SOLD IN OCTOBER LAST AT $20.)
A LARGE LINE OF
BROCHE SQUARE AND LONG SHAWLS,
AT EXTREMELY LOW PRICES.

BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

A. T. STEWART & CO.
ARE OFFERING
AN IMMENSE VARIETY OF RICH ELEGANT
MEDIUM STYLE DRESS GOODS
AT AN
ENORMOUS SACRIFICE
IN PRICES, VIZ.:
ALL WOOL
DIAGONAL AND SABLE SUITINGS,
54 TO 56 INCHES WIDE, AT $1 PER YARD; PACKAGE PRICE IN OCTOBER LAST, $2 50.
EMPRESS CLOTHS
AT 50c., RECENTLY SOLD FROM 75c. TO 85c. PER YARD.
HIGH-COLORED PLAID POPLINS
AT 50c. PER YARD; PACKAGE PRICE, 75c.
MARLED POPLINS, 25c. PER YARD; VALUE, 40c.
PRINTS, DELAINES, &c., &c.,
CUT IN DRESS LENGTHS.

A COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF
FRENCH AND ENGLISH
WOOL AND SILK AND WOOL FABRICS,
IN ALL THE NEW AND POPULAR
SHADES OF COLOR.

FRIENDS, CUSTOMERS, STRANGERS, AND THE RESIDENTS OF THE NEIGHBORING CITIES, ARE RESPECTFULLY INVITED TO EXAMINE THEM.

BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

A. T. STEWART & CO.
WILL OFFER ON MONDAY, DEC 26,
AN IMMENSE STOCK OF
REAL INDIA CAMEL'S HAIR SHAWLS FROM $50 EACH UPWARD.
EXTRA ELEGANT AND COSTLY BRUSSELS POINTE LACES AND LACE GOODS.
PARIS-MADE VELVET, SILK AND POPLIN SUITS AND DRESSES, EN TRAIN.
PARIS-MADE VELVET AND CLOTH POLONAISES, VERY RICH.
VELVETS AND PLUSH SACKS, CLOAKS, &c., &c.
EMBROIDERIES IN EVERY VARIETY.
LADIES' HATS, BONNETS, FEATHERS, FLOWERS.
ELEGANT SASHES AND SASH RIBBONS, &c.
PARIS AND VIENNA FANCY GOODS.
GENTLEMEN'S AND LADIES' FURNISHING GOODS, UNDER-GARMENTS, HOSIERY, GLOVES, FANCY NECKTIES IN THE LATEST LONDON STYLES, LAP RUGS, GENTLEMEN'S SMOKING JACKETS, DRESSING GOWNS, &c., &c.,
FORMING THE LARGEST ASSORTMENT TO BE FOUND IN THIS CITY,
AT PRICES LOWER THAN EVER.
BROADWAY, 4TH-AV., 9TH AND 10TH STS.

DRY GOODS.

1871. NEW-YEAR'S GIFTS. 1871.

JAMES McCREERY & CO.,

BROADWAY AND 11TH-ST.,
ON MONDAY, DEC. 26,
WILL OFFER
A FRESH ASSORTMENT OF THE
BEST AMERICAN DELAINES,
AT 12½ CENTS.
CUT IN DRESS LENGTHS,
AND TO FACILITATE SALES,
WILL BE DISPLAYED ON SEPARATE COUNTERS, IN THE CENTRE OF THE STORE.
AN IMMENSE ASSORTMENT OF
FRENCH AND ENGLISH PLAIN AND CHENE DRESS GOODS,
FROM 20 CENTS PER YARD UPWARD.
GREAT REDUCTION IN
SCOTCH AND ALL-WOOL PLAIDS,
FROM 37½ CENTS.
FINE EMPRESS CLOTHS,
IN ALL SHADES, AT 50 CENTS.
FRENCH MERINOS,
AT 75 CENTS.
IRISH AND FRENCH POPLINS, SATIN DU CHENE, ENGLISH SERGES, EPINGLINES, &c., &c.,
AT EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE PRICES.
BEST AMERICAN PRINTS,
NEW STYLES, FROM 7 TO 12½ CENTS.
FORMING THE CHEAPEST AND MOST ATTRACTIVE STOCK OF DRESS GOODS TO BE FOUND IN THE CITY.

JAMES McCREERY & CO.,

BROADWAY AND 11TH-ST.,
WILL OFFER
ON MONDAY, Dec. 26,
100 Pieces of
RICH STRIPED SILKS,
at 87½c. PER YARD—VALUE, $1 75.
A FULL LINE OF
VERY RICH PLAIN SILKS, DARK CLOTH COLORS, AT $4.
100 Pieces of
24-INCH BLACK GROS GRAIN SILKS
at $1 25 and $1 37½.
A FULL LINE OF
VERY HEAVY GROS GRAIN SILKS,
at $2.
RICH GOURD CROIZAT BLACK
GROS GRAINS,
at $2 50, $2 75 and $3.
AN IMMENSE REDUCTION IN RICH FANCY SILKS.
RICH SILKS AND SATINS,
IN ALL SHADES.
SUITABLE FOR
NEW-YEAR'S RECEPTION DRESSES.

JAMES McCREERY & CO.,

BROADWAY AND 11TH-ST.,
OFFER
ON MONDAY, DEC. 26,
GREAT BARGAINS
FOR NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.
LADIES' WALKING SUITS AT ONE-HALF THE COST.
BLACK ASTRAKHAN CLOAKS AT $20 AND $25, WORTH $40 AND $50.
SEAL SKIN CLOAKS AT $60.
CHILDREN'S CLOAKS, WALKING COATS, DRESSES AND SUITS AT LESS THAN COST.
INFANTS' TRIMMED AND EMBROIDERED CLOAKS, EMBROIDERED FLANNEL SKIRTS AND MERINO SHAWLS,
SLIPS, ROBES, SKIRTS, HATS AND CAPS, &c.
INFANTS' TOILET BASKETS.
LADIES' UNDER-CLOTHING
AT THE FOLLOWING LOW PRICES:

TUCKED SKIRTS	$1 00
NIGHT DRESSES	$2 and $2 50
CHEMISES	75 cents and $1 25
DRAWERS	$1 00

JAMES McCREERY & CO.,

BROADWAY AND 11TH-ST.,
ON MONDAY, DEC. 26,
WILL MAKE LARGE ADDITIONS TO THEIR
ELEGANT STOCK OF FURS,
FOR NEW-YEAR'S GIFTS.
CHILDREN'S FUR SETS, $3, $4 AND $5.
LADIES' SETS IN RUSSIA SABLE, ERMINE,
ALASKA SABLE, AND MINK.
ALASKA TRIMMING, BY THE YARD.
CUSTOMERS AND STRANGERS ARE INVITED TO EXAMINE.

JAMES McCREERY & CO.,

BROADWAY AND 11TH-ST.,
ON MONDAY, DEC. 26,
will offer
AN ELEGANT ASSORTMENT OF
REAL VALENCIENNES SETS,
At $3 75, $4 50, $5 and $10.
REAL POINT LACE SETS,
From $10 to $14.
REAL VALENCIENNES HANDKERCHIEFS,
From $3 to $25.
REAL POINT APPLIQUE SETS,
At $4, $5 50, to $30.
BLACK THREAD BARBES, COIFFURES, &c.,
At less than gold cost.

The above goods are in elegant Paris-made fancy boxes, suitable for
NEW-YEAR'S GIFTS.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

Beautiful assortment of Bonnets, Round Hats, Flowers, Feathers, Head-dresses, Bridal Wreaths and Vails.

MME. NATALIE TILMAN & CO.,
No. 84 East 9th-st., between Broadway and 4th-av.
N. B.—Suits and ball dresses made to order.

AUCTION SALES.

ALLEN B. MINER, Auctioneer.

BY ALLEN B. MINER & BROTHER, late Henry H. Leeds & Miner. Established, 1847. Sales-rooms No. 95 Chambers, and No. 77 Reade-st.

ALLEN B. MINER & BROTHER will sell at auction, on THURSDAY and FRIDAY EVENINGS, Dec. 28 and 29, AT 7½ O'CLOCK, AT THE LEEDS ART GALLERIES, Nos. 817 and 819 Broadway, corner of 12th-st., peremptory sale of fine original modern oil-paintings of the French, Flemish and Belgian schools, comprising the entire balance of invoices of Messrs. D. D'HUYVETTER, of ANTWERP, and P. A. VOGET, of AMSTERDAM, consigned to us direct, and fully equaling, if not excelling those sold in our last sale of the 21st and 22d inst. The collection embraces the latest and finest examples of the following distinguished and much-esteemed artists, and are represented by highly finished and characteristic pictures, viz:

HENDRIK F. SCHAEFELS, OF ANTWERP.

The famous picture of the "Battle of the Walcherson," taken from Motley's "History of the Rise of the Dutch Republic," unquestionably the most spirited and finest work of this eminent master in the country.

DAVID COL.

Interior and figures; painted in the happiest vein of this eminently-humorous artist, and not excelled by any painting heretofore sold in this City.

EUGENE VERBOECKHOVEN.

A large, superb Landscape, with cattle and sheep. Full of beautiful detail and elaboration.

Also works of

F. Rofiaen,
David de Noter,
L. Robbe,
Portielje,
J. F. Kruseman,
H. de Vos,
Speldorn,
Lamschroder,
Th. Gerard,
T. Carolus,
E. Bidan,
Laurent de Beul,
F. von Seben,
La Porie,
Reykelhuysen.
J. Berlin,
G. Wints,
Kuwasseg,
Koek Koek,
Plateel,
C. Deickert,
Henry de Beul,
Schelfont,
Eversen,

And many others of excellency.

Also, a number of fine American pictures, the production of well-known resident artists.

The Galleries will BE OPEN on and after MONDAY, 26th inst., day and evening, FREE, until sale.

OFFICE OF DEPOT QUARTERMASTER,
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 7, 1870.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT STEAMER NEWBERNE.

The United States steamer NEWBERNE, with all her gear, rigging, spars, sails, boats, cabin furniture, and other appointments, will be offered for sale at public auction at the office of the Depot Quartermaster in San Francisco, on MONDAY, the 16th day of January, 1871.

The NEWBERNE is a screw-propeller of 948 tons, O. M., of 250-horse power, 36-inch cylinder and 36-inch stroke, 200 feet in length, was built of white oak, in Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1862, draws about 16 feet of water when loaded, and is thoroughly well found in every particular.

In April last she received a new boiler and donkey-pump with boiler attached, and was thoroughly overhauled.

Terms cash in gold coin of the United States; 20 per cent. to be paid on the day of sale, and the balance on the delivery of the vessel.

Further particulars may be obtained of the undersigned, or at the office of Capt. WM. B. HUGHES, A. Q. M., San Francisco. C. G. SAWTELLE, Major and Quartermaster in charge of Depot.

WATCHES, JEWELRY, &C.

THE BEST PLACE TO BUY AMERICAN and English watches, jewelry, silverware, cuckoo and French clocks is at FRANKFIELD'S old established jewelry-stores, 6th-av., corner 14th-st., and 8th-av., corner 28th-st.

HORSES AND CARRIAGES.

WANTED—AT SECOND-HAND, A SMALL natty round-front coupe, in good order; Brewster & Co.'s (of Broome-st.) make preferred. Address Box No. 3,456 Post-office.

BOARDING AND LODGING.

BRIGHT, CHEERFUL ROOMS, EN suite or separately, in a private family; comforts of a home offered; private table if desired; moderate terms. Apply at No. 278 4th-av., nearly opposite Calvary Church.

TO LET, FURNISHED—TWO OR three rooms, on parlor floor, to one or more gentlemen; also, room on third floor; references exchanged. No. 45 East 18th-st., between Broadway and 4th-av.

A GENTLEMAN DESIRES A MODERATE-priced furnished room, with fire and without board, near Union or Madison square; private family preferred. Address, stating terms and location, A. J. Y., Box No. 174 Times Office.

NO. 1 IRVING-PLACE, CORNER OF 14TH-ST.—Front parlors and bed-rooms, handsomely furnished, with first-class table, can now be secured by early application.

NO. 279 4TH-AV., HOUSE ADJOINING Calvary Church, two bright cheerful rooms to let with board; vacated in consequence of a family unexpectedly leaving the City.

FIFTH-AV., NO. 251, CORNER OF 28TH-ST.—One suite of four rooms, together or separately; private table, French man cook.

NO. 343 WEST 23D-ST.—A COMFORTably-furnished room, with board for two persons, at $14; also, a room with board for three at $24.

NO. 28 WEST 19TH-ST.—HANDSOMEly-furnished room for a family or party of gentlemen; also single rooms; house and table first-class.

SAVINGS BANKS.

IRVING SAVINGS INSTITUTION,
NO. 96 WARREN-ST., NEW-YORK,

SIX PER CENT. INTEREST allowed on all sums. Deposits made now will draw interest from Jan. 1. Bank open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M.

WALTER W. CONCKLING, President
VANDERBILT L. BUXTON, Secretary.

A "CAPITAL" PRESENT FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

A BANK-BOOK, WITH A DEPOSIT
IN THE
MUTUAL BENEFIT SAVINGS BANK
SUN BUILDING, NO. 166 NASSAU-ST., N. Y.

IT MAY BE THE FOUNDATION OF A FUTURE OF COMFORT AND PROSPERITY. WHAT OTHER GIFT IS SO FULL OF PROMISE!

Interest commences every month.

Married women and minor children have exclusive control over their deposits.

Parents may accumulate a fund for their children, thus teaching them the habit of saving, and inculcating lessons of prudence and economy.

One dollar will open an account.

Money deposited now will draw interest from Jan. 1.

A semi-annual DIVIDEND, at the rate of Six per Cent. per annum, will be payable Jan. 21. Dividends not withdrawn receive interest the same as deposits.

CHARLES K. GRAHAM, President.
G. H. BENEDICT, Secretary.

THE SIXPENNY SAVINGS BANK,
ASTOR-PLACE.

This old savings institution, the pioneer in the enterprise of taking SMALL DEPOSITS, calls the attention of PARENTS, HUSBANDS, RELATIVES and EMPLOYERS to the subject of HOLIDAY PRESENTS, and recommends the presentation of a BANK BOOK, with a suitable deposit, as a truly beneficial and acceptable CHRISTMAS or NEW-YEAR'S GIFT. There is no class of institutions so well calculated to benefit all classes of society in a pecuniary way as savings banks, and none that impart to the people such sound and practical ideas of individual industry and economy as the surest path to wealth and independence. Let every one have a savings bank book, man, woman and child. Let all know the value of keeping a bank account, so that they may see how much they earn, how much they spend year after year. A bank book will teach your wives and daughters how to manage their own affairs. These are lessons that are taught without cost by a savings bank; their moral and practical value is almost incalculable. Let, therefore, all who have good and faithful servants, who have poor relatives, those who have children; let every man who has a wife whom he loves and respects, procure a bank book with a suitable deposit, as the most useful and lasting Christmas or New-Year's gift.

BANK OPEN DAILY FROM 10 A. M. TO 3 P. M.

Six per cent. interest, free of taxes. Deposits received from 5 cents to $5,000.

WM. MILES, President.
J. S. SLOAN, Secretary.

NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK.

THE FREEDMAN'S SAVINGS AND TRUST COMPANY.
(Chartered by the Government of the United States.)
No. 185 Bleecker-st.

DEPOSITS OVER $2,000,000.

INTEREST payable or compounded, free of all taxes, THREE TIMES in each year, or every thirty days, as depositors prefer. A specialty made of allowing interest from date of each deposit on sums of $50 and upward, so that funds may not be idle for months as in most Banks, but may return an income promptly. Married women and children have exclusive control over their money deposited in the National Savings Bank. All accounts strictly private and confidential. Deposits can be sent by express. All deposits payable ON DEMAND, with interest due.

Especial advantages afforded to trustees, guardians and others, having in charge trust funds; also, to societies, lodges, divisions, associations, &c.

Open daily from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M., and MONDAYS and SATURDAYS from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M.

JOHN J. ZUILLE, Cashier.

1871—JANUARY INTEREST.

CITIZENS' SAVINGS BANK,

No. 58 Bowery, south-west corner of Canal-st.

The semi-annual interest at the rate of Six per Cent. per annum on all sums of $5 and upward, which have been on deposit for one or more months next previous to Jan. 1, will be credited and paid on and after SATURDAY, Jan. 21.

All interest not called for will remain as principal, and draw interest accordingly, and will be entered on the depositors' books any time when presented after the 21st of January.

The bank is open every day for the reception and payment of money, from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., and on MONDAYS and SATURDAYS from 10 A. M. to 7 P. M.

Deposits made on or before Jan. 20 will draw interest from the 1st of January.

Bank books in German, French and English.

E. A. QUINTARD, President.
SEYMOUR A. BUNCE, Secretary.

THIRD-AVENUE SAVINGS BANK.

Corner 3d-av. and 26th-st.,
NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1870.

INTEREST.—Semi-annual interest at the rate of Six per Cent. per annum, on all sums from $1 to $5,000, will be paid on and after the THIRD MONDAY in January.

Interest will be added to accounts Jan. 1, and if not drawn bear interest as new deposits. Bank open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS from 6 to 8 o'clock

SPENCER K. GREEN, President.
WM. B. BIBBINS, Secretary.

NORTH RIVER SAVINGS BANK,

Corner of 8th-av. and West 34th-st.

DIVIDEND.—A SEMI-ANNUAL DIVIDEND, at the rate of SIX PER CENT. per annum, on all sums from $5 to $5,000, will be paid on and after Jan. 16, 1871.

MONEY DEPOSITED on or before the 20th of January, will draw INTEREST from Jan. 1.

BANK open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M.; also on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings, from 6 to 8 o'clock.

JOHN HOOPER, President.
JAMES O. BENNETT, Secretary.

MECHANICS' AND TRADERS' SAVINGS INSTITUTION,

No. 283 BOWERY, NEAR HOUSTON-ST.

SIX PER CENT. interest allowed on all sums from $5 to $10,000. Deposits made now draw interest from Jan. 1. GERMAN SPOKEN. Open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., and on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 to 7.

ALFRED T. CONKLIN, President.
HENRY C. FISHER, Sec'y.

METROPOLITAN SAVINGS BANK.

NOS. 1 AND 3 THIRD-AV., NEW-YORK, opposite Cooper Institute. SIX PER CENT. INTEREST allowed on ALL SUMS of $5 and upward.

ONE DOLLAR RECEIVED.

INTEREST COMMENCES JAN. 1, on deposits made now.

ISAAC T. SMITH, President.
T. W. LILLIE, Secretary.

THIRD-AVENUE SAVINGS BANK,

Corner of 3d-av. and 26th-st.

Open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., and on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings, from 6 to 8 o'clock. Six per cent. interest paid on all sums from $1 to $5,000.

PROPOSALS.

WROUGHT AND CAST IRON WORK.

POST-OFFICE AND UNITED STATES COURT-HOUSE, NEW-YORK CITY,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, Dec. 15, 1870.

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent until 12 M., Jan. 15, 1871, for furnishing, delivering, fitting, and putting in place the cast and wrought-iron work exhibited in plans, specifications and schedules now in this office, consisting of cast-iron columns, bed-plates, &c., and wrought-iron beams, girders, &c.

The work of the columns, iron beams and girders must be furnished, delivered, fitted, and put in place complete, within four months after date of written notice to commence the work, and the remainder as rapidly as required by the progress of the work, and as demanded by the Superintendent.

The contractors will be permitted the use of the derricks and engines in putting the work in place, without charge, but will be required to pay the time of the men employed in working them, who will be furnished by the Department when required.

Scaffolding to be furnished by the contractors.

Proposals will be made by the piece or by weight for the various castings and beams as provided for in the schedules.

The work will not be subdivided among different bidders, but will be considered in the aggregate.

Payments will be made monthly, deducting ten per cent. until the final completion of the contract.

All bids must be accompanied by a penal bond in the sum of $25,000, that the bidder will accept and perform the contract if awarded him, the sufficiency of the security to be certified by the United States Judge, Clerk of the United States Court, or District-Attorney of the district where he resides.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids, if it be deemed for the interest of the Government to do so; and any bid that is not made on the printed form to be obtained in this office, and does not conform in every respect to the requirements of this advertisement, will not be considered; neither will any proposals be received from parties who are not themselves engaged in the manufacture of cast or wrought iron work, and who have not the necessary facilities for getting out the castings or rolled beams.

Proposals will be indorsed "Bids for Iron Work," and addressed to CALVIN T. HULBURD, Superintendent.

OFFICE OF THE A. C. S.,
WILLET'S POINT, N. Y. H., Dec. 22, 1870.

SEALED PROPOSALS IN DUPLICATE will be received at this office until 11 A. M., Jan. 22, 1871, for furnishing the Fresh Beef required by the Subsistence Department, U. S. A., at this station, during six months commencing Feb. 2, 1871. Information as to conditions, quality of beef, payments, &c., can be obtained by application to CHARLES F. POWELL, Second Lieutenant Corps of Engineers, and A. C. S.

AMUSEMENTS.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.

LAST WEEK BUT ONE.

138TH TO 142D TIME
of Mr.
JOSEPH JEFFERSON,
as
RIP VAN WINKLE.

LAST RIP VAN WINKLE MATINEE BUT ONE, ON SATURDAY AT 1½ O'CLOCK.

Seats secured SIX DAYS IN ADVANCE, at the Theatre, or at its Branch Ticket-office, at Ditson & Co.'s Music-store, No. 711 Broadway.

ON MONDAY, JAN. 9, 1871,
MR. EDWIN BOOTH
will appear in Bulwer's Historical Play of
RICHELIEU.

BOOTH'S THEATRE. EXTRA.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.
SPECIAL MATINEE
OF
RIP VAN WINKLE,
On MONDAY, Dec. 26, at 1½ o'clock.

FIFTH-AVENUE THEATRE.

MISS KATE FIELD
WILL DELIVER
HER NEW LECTURE
ON CHARLES DICKENS
ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT,
SUNDAY NEXT,
DEC. 25, AT 8 O'CLOCK.
Admission—Reserved seats, $1.
Family Circle, 50 cents.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' FAIR.

SEVENTY-FIRST REGIMENT ARMORY,
CORNER BROADWAY, 6TH-AV. AND 35TH-ST.
ADMISSION, ONLY 25 CENTS.

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT!
PANORAMA EVERY AFTERNOON!!

GREAT CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL!

MAGNIFICENT PICTURES!
LIVING ART GALLERY!!
ORIGINAL PUNCH AND JUDY!!!
CHRISTMAS TREES!!!!

TOYS, CANDIES AND FANCY ARTICLES AT LESS THAN WHOLESALE BRICES.

AUCTION EVERY NIGHT AT 9 O'CLOCK.

OPEN DAY AND NIGHT.

ASSOCIATION HALL.

Corner of 23d-st. and 4th-av.
GRAND CONCERT GIVEN BY
HERR CARL FEININGER,
under the auspices of the German Young Men's Christian Association,
WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 28, 1870,
assisted by the following artists:

Mme. E. Feininger, Soprano; Mr. William Candidus, Tenor; Mr. Max S. Pinner, Pianist; Mr. H. O. C. Korthener, Pianist; Herr Carl Feininger, Violinist, and the Chorus of the Association.

Doors open at 7. Concert at 8 P. M.
TICKETS, $1.

*To be had of G. Schirmer, No. 701 Broadway; J. Schuberth & Co., No. 820 Broadway; American Tract Society, corner of 23d-st. and 4th-av.; theatre ticket-office, No. 114 Broadway, and by all members of the Association and at the door on the evening of the concert.

FIREMEN'S BALL.

THE FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL BALL
in aid of the
WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND
of the late
VOLUNTEER NEW-YORK
FIRE DEPARTMENT
will be given
AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC,
MONDAY EVENING, JAN. 30, 1871.

Tickets, $5, admitting a gentleman and ladies.

JAS. F. WENMANN, President, No. 146 Pearl-st.
ALONZO SLOTE, Treasurer, No. 120 Fulton-st.
J. JOSEPH WESTRAY, Secretary, No. 1 William-st.

Proscenium and dress circle boxes can be procured on application to
JAMES F. WENMAN, President.

THE CHARITY BALL.

The fifteenth annual ball for the benefit of the NURSERY, will take place under the usual management at the Academy of Music, on the evening of THURSDAY, 2d February.

NEW-YORK HARMONIC SOCIETY.

THE MESSIAH.

STEINWAY HALL, MONDAY EVENING, Dec. 26.

MARIA BRAINERD	Soprano
C. V. HUTCHINGS	Alto
GEO. SIMPSON	Tenor
JOSIAH JEWETT	Bass
H. E. BROWNE	Organist
Dr. JAMES PECH	Conductor

Tickets, $1; reserved seats, 50 cents extra; to be had at the box-office, Steinway Hall, from 9 to 4, on Monday.

MUSICAL.

A GREAT OFFER!!

HORACE WATERS, NO. 481 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK,

will dispose of ONE HUNDRED PIANOS, MELODEONS and ORGANS of six first-class makers, including Waters' and Chickering's, at EXTREMELY LOW PRICES FOR CASH, DURING THE HOLIDAYS, or will take from $4 to $20 monthly until paid; to let, and rent applied if purchased.

A.—GREATEST BARGAIN.—MAGNIFICENT 7⅓ octave rose-wood piano-forte, for $360 cash, with box for shipping; cost $800 few months since; five years' warrantee; round corners, serpentine bottom, carved legs, full iron plate, overstrung bass; Agraffe, most celebrated City makers; powerful, rich tone, without a blemish. Apply at 690 6th-av., near 40th-st.

A LARGE STOCK OF PIANOS, BEST makers, to rent or sell cheap for cash or on installments. Come and see them at M. M. MERRELL'S Wareroom, No. 8 Union-square (166 4th-av.

HOLIDAY GOODS.

TOYS. TOYS.

A very large and fine assortment of French, German, English and American toys. All the novelties selling at very low prices at

R. H. STAVELEY'S,
No. 870 Broadway,
East side, near 18th-st.

INSTRUCTION.

MOUNT WASHINGTON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE,

CLASSICAL, COMMERCIAL, ENGLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN,

No. 40 Washington-square, (south.)

GEO. W. CLARKE, PH. D., PRINCIPAL,

Prepares boys of all ages for business or college on reasonable terms, and opens its twenty-eighth academic year Sept. 12. For references and particulars see circular, to be had at the Institute, which parents are invited to visit.

ANTHON GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

5TH-AV., CORNER 29TH-ST.

In the departments of ancient and modern languages, English and mathematics, reopens MONDAY, Sept. 12; the Primary department Sept. 19, and the gymnasium Oct. 3. School hours, 9½ A. M. to 2½ P. M.

GARDNER INSTITUTE,

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES,
NO. 620 FIFTH-AVENUE.
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. C. H. GARDNER, Principals.

BOARDING-SCHOOL AT NORTH ORANGE, N. J., FOR 11 BOYS.—Superior home comforts; rare advantages for instruction; first-class City references; terms moderate. Address PRINCIPAL, care of J. Hull Browning, No. 326 Broadway, New-York.

ROCKLAND FEMALE INSTITUTE, NYACK, ON THE HUDSON, N. Y.—The Fall term will commence Sept. 15. For circulars with full particulars, address Rev. L. DELOS MANSFIELD, Principal.

A FIRST-CLASS SEMINARY FOR BOTH SEXES.—Board, furnished room, tuition, penmanship, washing, fuel, gymnastics, $200 per year. Address T. HANLON, Pennington, New-Jersey.

HOME INSTITUTE, TARRYTOWN, N. Y.—A boarding and day school for young ladies and children. For circulars address Miss M. METCALF, Principal.

IRVING INSTITUTE, TARRYTOWN, N. Y.—A Boarding School for Boys. The school year will commence Sept. 14. For circulars apply to D. S. ROWE, M. A., Principal.

DREW LADIES' SEMINARY, CARMEL, N. Y.—Spring session of 19 weeks begins Feb. 20. A safe and pleasant home; best educational advantages. Send for circular. Rev. GEO. C. SMITH, A. M.

AN INSTITUTION FOR THE INTELLECTUAL, Moral and Physical Culture of Ladies. Class reformed Jan. 2. Stamford Collegiate Institute, Stamford, Conn. ROBT. C. FLACK, A. M., Principal.

AMENIA SEMINARY—AMENIA, N. Y. Boarding-school for both sexes. Term begins Jan. 3. S. T. FROST, A. M., Principal.

C. B. WARRING'S MILITARY BOARDING SCHOOL, at Poughkeepsie, New-York. Circulars sent.

THE MISSES BUCKNALLS' ENGLISH and FRENCH Boarding-school, for young ladies, New-Brunswick, N. J., will reopen Sept. 20.

TEACHERS.

A THOROUGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER of mathematics, military drill, &c., wanted; a graduate of West Point preferred. Address INSTRUCTION, Box No. 672 New-York Post-office.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

FEMALES.

WANTED—A SITUATION BY A SMART and experienced person to work in families by the day; cuts and makes ladies' and children's suits, also evening and ball dresses. Call for two days at No. 525 6th-av., hair-dressing store.

EMPLOYMENT AND INDEMNITY COMPANY, No. 4 Union-square, next to East 14th-st.—Incorporated by special act of the Legislature to furnish families, hotels, merchants, &c., with reliable and honest help.

AMUSEMENTS.

WALLACK'S.

LAST NIGHTS OF LEGITIMATE COMEDIES.

MONDAY (CHRISTMAS) NIGHT—Last time this season—COQUETTES.

TUESDAY, Dec. 27—First time this season—THE HEIR AT LAW.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 28—THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.

THURSDAY, Dec. 29—Last time this season—THE ROAD TO RUIN.

FRIDAY, Dec. 30—Last time this season—THE HEIR AT LAW.

SATURDAY MATINEE, Dec. 31—Last time this season—THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.

SATURDAY NIGHT, Dec. 31—Last time this season—THE SERIOUS FAMILY.

The above arrangement will be strictly adhered to in consequence of the approaching production of a series of

NEW PLAYS,
Commencing with Mr. Robertson's
WAR.

NEW-YORK CIRCUS.

GLORIOUS HOLIDAY SPECTACLE.
CINDERELLA;
or,
THE LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER.
MATINEES EVERY DAY AT 2½.
MATINEES EVERY DAY AT 2½.
EVERY NIGHT AT 8.
BRILLIANT PARAPHERNALIA.
FAIRY CHARIOT DRAWN BY A TEAM OF TINY PONIES.
SIXTY LILLIPUTIAN LORDS AND LADIES.

In addition to the spectacle there will be presented at
EACH AND EVERY ENTERTAINMENT
UNSURPASSED EXHIBITIONS OF
DARING BAREBACK HORSEMANSHIP,
ATHLETIC, GYMNASTIC AND ACROBATIC FEATS OF SKILL AND WONDER
by the
LEADING ARTISTS OF THE ARENA.

FOURTEENTH-STREET THEATRE

ITALIAN OPERA.

A short season of Italian opera will be given by the associated artists, Czillag, Le Franc, Reyna and Susini, commencing Jan. 4.

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PROGRAMME HOLIDAY WEEK.
Send the ladies and children in the afternoons,
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ADMISSION ONLY 25 CENTS.
Junction Broadway, 6th-av. and 35th-st.

MONDAY EVENING—Mme. DE LUSSAN and the Choir of St. Stephen's Church, and the Fort Hamilton Band.

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EVERY EVENING.
NO EXTRA CHARGE.
Auction of holiday goods every evening.

THE GREAT BALL OF THE SEASON.

The BAXTER HOP, Academy of Music, JAN. 25, 1871.

Boxes can now be secured on application to JAMES M. MORTON, Treasurer, Sinclair House.

FIFTH ANNUAL BALL OF THE Private Coachmen's Benevolent and Charitable Society of the City and County of New-York, at Irving Hall, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 4, 1871.

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DE GARMOS' DANCING ACADEMY,

No. 82 5th-av., corner 14th-st.
Classes for beginners constantly forming.
Classes in "The Boston" and "Redowa."

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A DESIRABLE HIGH-STOOP DWELLing, with all modern improvements, 22.6x55x100, for sale very low; between 5th and 6th avs., 9th-st. Possession. V. K. STEVENSON & SON, No. 11 Pine-st.

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TO LET OR FOR SALE—AT ELIZABETH, comfortable 12 room house; modern fittings; near depot; 45 minutes from Wall-st.; 50 trains daily—commutation 11 cents per trip, on favorite line of travel. Inquire at West Elizabeth (Jersey-st.) station, or address C. C., Box No. 235 Post-office, New-York.

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STORES AND LOFTS TO LET AT low rents, a few doors east of Broadway. Apply on the premises, Nos. 90 and 92 White-st.

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A. J. BLEECKER, SON & Co., Auctioneers,

WILL SELL AT AUCTION, ON THURSDAY, Jan. 5, at 12 o'clock, at Exchange Salesroom, No. 111 Broadway,

PARTITION SALE TO CLOSE AN ESTATE.

WEST SIXTEENTH-STREET.—Three-story and attic brick house and lot, No. 31, north side, between 5th and 6th avs., 25x92, with the modern improvements. Terms favorable.

E. H. LUDLOW & Co., Auctioneers.

EXECUTOR'S SALE OF THE ESTATE of A. J. Cipriani, at 12 o'clock, Jan. 26, 1871, at the Exchange Sales-room, No. 111 Broadway, New-York, viz.: Buildings and lots, No. 11 Pine-st., No. 73 Nassau-st., and No. 43 Liberty-st.; six-sixteenths in packet ships of the Black Ball line; $2,890 scrip Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company, and 404 acres 111 perches of land in Monroe County, Penn.

Particulars at auctioneers' office, No. 3 Pine-st.

RAILROADS.

ERIE RAILWAY.

Trains leave depots foot of Chambers-st. and foot of 23d-st. as follows:

Through Express Trains leave Chambers-st. at 9 A. M., 11 A. M., 5:30 P. M., and 7 P. M., daily. Leave 23d-st. at 8:45 A. M., 10:45 A. M., and 5:15 and 6:45 P. M., daily. New and improved Drawing-room Coaches accompany the 9 A. M. train through to Buffalo, connecting at Hornellsville with magnificent Sleeping Coaches running through to Cleveland and Galion. Sleeping Coaches accompany the 11 A. M. train from Susquehanna to Buffalo; the 5:30 P. M. train from New-York to Buffalo, and the 7 P. M. train from New-York to Hornellsville, Buffalo and Cincinnati. An Emigrant Train leaves daily at 7:45 P. M.

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For Middletown and Way at 3:30 P. M. (23d-st. at 3:15 P. M.), and Sundays only, 8:30 A. M. (23d-st., 8:15 A. M.)

For Otisville and Way at *7:30 A. M. (23d-st., 7:15 A. M.)

For Newburg and Way at 9 A. M., 3:30 and 4:30 P. M. (23d-st., 8:45 A. M., 3:15 and 4:15 P. M.)

For Suffern and Way, 5 and 6 P. M. (23d-st., 4:45 and 5:45 P. M.) Theatre Train, *11:30 P. M. (23d-st., *11:15 P. M.)

For Paterson and Way, from Twenty-third street Depot, at 6:45, 9:45 and 11:45 A. M.; *1:45, 3:45, 5:15 and 6:45 P. M. From Chambers-street Depot at 6:45, 10 A. M.; 12 M.; *1:45, 4, 5:15 and 6:45 P. M.

For Hackensack and Hillsdale, from Twenty-third-street Depot, at 8:45 A. M., and 12:45, 3:45, ‡5:15, 5:45 and ‡6:45 P. M. From Chambers-street Depot, 9 A. M. and 1, 4, ‡5:15, 6 and ‡6:45 P. M.

For Piermont, Nyack, Monsey, and Way, from Twenty-third-street Depot at 9:15 A. M.; †12:45, 3:15, 4:15, 4:45 and †6:15 P. M., and Saturdays only †11:45 P. M. From Chambers-street Depot, at 9:30 A. M.; †1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 4:30, 5:00, and †6:30 P. M., and Saturday only †12 midnight.

Tickets for passage and for apartments in Drawing Room and Sleeping Coaches can be obtained, and orders for the checking and transfer of baggage may be left at the Company's offices, Nos. 241, 529, and 957 Broadway; Nos. 205 Chambers-st.; No. 38 Greenwich-st.; corner 125th-street and 3d-av., Harlem; No. 338 Fulton-st., Brooklyn; depots foot of Chambers-st. and foot of 23d-st., New-York; No. 3 Exchange-place, and Long Dock Depot, Jersey City, and of the agents at the principal hotels.

L. D. RUCKER, General Superintend't.
WM. R. BARR, Gen'l. Pass'r. Ag't.
DEC. 5, 1870.

* Daily. ‡ For Hackensack only. † For Piermont and Nyack only.

NEW-YORK CENTRAL AND HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.

Trains leave 30th-st. as follows:

8:00 A. M., Chicago express, drawing-room cars attached.

10:00 A. M., Special drawing-room car express for Chicago. No accommodation for way passengers except in drawing-room cars.

10:40 A. M., Northern and Western express, drawing-room cars attached.

4:00 P. M., Montreal express, drawing-room cars attached.

6:30 P. M., First Pacific express, with sleeping-cars through to Watertown, Syracuse and Canandaigua (daily.)

8:00 P. M., Second Pacific express, with sleeping-cars attached, for Rochester and Buffalo, also for Chicago via both L. S. and M. C. Railroads, for St. Louis via Toledo, and Louisville via Indianapolis. This train will leave at 6 P. M. on Sundays.

11:00 P. M., Night express, sleeping-cars attached.

7:00 A. M. and 2 and 5 P. M., Poughkeepsie trains.

9:00 A. M., 4:15 and 6:40 P. M., Peekskill trains.

5:30 and 6:10 P. M., Sing Sing trains.

6:40, 7:30, 9:10 and 10:15 A. M., 12 M., 1:30, 3, 4:25, 5:10, 8:10 and 11:30 P. M., Yonkers trains.

9:00 A. M., Sunday train for Poughkeepsie.

C. H. KENDRICK, General Passenger Agent.
NEW-YORK, Dec. 5, 1870.

AMUSEMENTS.

GRAND OPERA-HOUSE.

Corner 23d-st. and 8th-av.
CHRISTMAS WEEK. GREAT HOLIDAY BILL.
MONDAY, DEC. 26, GRAND MATINEE AT 2.
LES BRIGANDS.
FIORELLA........Mlle. CELINE MONTALAND
FRAGOLETTO........Mlle. SUZANNE THAL
MONDAY EVENING AT 8,
LES BRIGANDS.
FIORELLA (her original role)........Mlle. AIMEE
FRAGOLETTO........Mlle. PERSINI
TUESDAY, DEC. 27,
BARBE BLEUE.
BOULOTTE........Mlle. AIMEE
BARBE BLEUE........M. GAUSINS
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 28, and THURSDAY, Dec. 29,
LES BRIGANDS.
FIORELLA........Mlle. AIMEE
FRAGOLETTO........Mlle. PERSINI
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DEC. 30 AND 31,
AND SATURDAY MATINEE AT 2,
BARBE BLEUE.
BOULOTTE........Mlle. AIMEE
BARBE BLEUE........M. GAUSINS
GRAND NEW-YEAR MATINEE MONDAY, JAN. 2.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—The FIRST GRAND CONCERT of the new NINTH REGIMENT BAND will take place on SUNDAY EVENING, Jan. 1. This magnificent band will number seventy-five first-class musicians, and will be under the direction of Signor CARLO PATTI. D. L. Downing and J. Alexander, leaders.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.

MONDAY, DEC. 26,
SPECIAL MATINEE.
WEE WILLIE WINKIE,
GEO. L. FOX'S
POPULAR PANTOMIME.

Seats secured for the matinee and evening performances.

GEO. L. FOX as WEE WILLIE WINKIE,
for the 95th and 96th time.

LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE.

Every evening at 8. Saturday Matinee at 2.
EXTRA MATINEE—CHRISTMAS DAY.
TWO GLORIOUS BURLESQUES:
LITTLE JACK SHEPPARD AND FRA DIAVOLO.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

BILLIARDS.

Grand contest between
A. P. RUDOLPHE AND CYRILLE DION,
FOR $2,000,

2,000 points, according to the rules governing the championship, viz.: Standard four-pocket table, regulation size balls, 2⅜ inches, on
WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 28, 1870.

Admission $1. Reserved seats, $2. Boxes, according to location, $8 and $12. Doors open at 7 o'clock. Play to commence at 8 o'clock.

Seats may be secured at Chris. O'Connor's, No. 69 East 14th-st., and at Apollo Billiard Parlors, No. 1,193 Broadway, and at Academy of Music day of match.

TWENTY-SECOND INFANTRY N. G. S. N. Y.

COMPLIMENTARY RECEPTION,
ACADEMY OF MUSIC,
JAN. 9, 1871.

Boxes may be procured of W. C. Rogers & Co., No. 26 John-st.; A. Bridgeman & Co., No. 876 Broadway.

SECOND APPEARANCE OF
MISS GLYN,
THE EMINENT ENGLISH TRAGEDIENNE,
STEINWAY HALL, WEDNESDAY, Dec. 28,
in
MACBETH.

Tickets, $1 each. Reserved seats 50 cents extra.

For sale at Steinway Hall, Theatre ticket agency, No. 114 Broadway, and Fifth-avenue Hotel.

BROADWAY UNDER-GROUND RAILWAY, 260 Broadway, corner Warren, open 10 to 5.

EXCURSIONS.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION.

NEW-YORK TO
PHILADELPHIA
and return for
$4.

By the NEW-YORK AND PHILADELPHIA RAILROAD. Christmas excursion tickets from New-York to Philadelphia and return, good from Dec. 23 to 27th, inclusive, can be procured at the Company's ticket-offices, foot of Cortlandt-st., and in depot, Jersey City.

F. W. JACKSON, Gen. Supt.
F. W. RANKIN, General Passenger Agent.

LECTURES

HEAR OLIVE LOGAN ON "THE BRIGHT SIDE," TUESDAY EVENING, Dec. 27, Holy Trinity Chapel, Harlem.

SHIPPING.

SAN DOMINGO LINE

FOR
PUERTO PLATA,
SAMANA AND SAN DOMINGO CITY.
The United States mail steam-ship
TYBEE,
Capt. E. A. DELANOY,
will leave Pier No. 4 North River, for the above ports, on SATURDAY, Dec. 31, at 3 o'clock P. M.
For freight or passage apply to
SPOFFORD BROTHERS & CO.,
No. 29 Broadway.

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ATLANTIC MAIL STEAM-SHIP COMPANY, sailing regularly every THURSDAY at 3 o'clock P. M. precisely, from Pier No. 4 North River.

MORRO CASTLE, Capt. R. ADAMS, (via Nassau) Dec. 29
COLUMBIA, Capt. E. VAN SICE........Jan. 5
MISSOURI, Capt. J. B. EDWARDS, (via Nassau) Jan. 12

For freight or passage apply to
A. W. DIMOCK, President,
No. 5 Bowling-green.

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CARRYING THE ROYAL MAILS.

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HAVANA, SISAL AND VERA CRUZ.—New-York and Mexican Mail Steam-ship Line, leaving Pier No. 17 East River, at 3 P. M.

CLEOPATRA, Phillips........Thursday, Dec. 29.
CITY OF MEXICO, Timmerman........Saturday, Jan. 7.
CLEOPATRA, Phillips........Wednesday, Jan. 18.
CITY OF MERIDA, Deaken........Saturday, Jan. 28.

For freight or passage apply to
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Cleopatra goes to Havana only; takes no passengers.

UNITED STATES PASSPORT BUREAU.—United States passports, indispensable to travelers, issued by J. B. NONES, Passport Agent, No. 305 Broadway.

STEAMBOATS.

NARRAGANSETT STEAM-SHIP CO.
NEW-JERSEY SOUTHERN RAILROAD LINE.
NEW-YORK AND PHILADELPHIA,
VIA SANDY HOOK AND LONG BRANCH.
WINTER ARRANGEMENTS.

The steamers MAGENTA, Capt. JOHN BROWN, and JESSE HOYT, Capt. JAMES SEELY, leave Pier No. 28 North River daily (Sundays excepted) as follows: MAGENTA 8 A. M., connecting at Sandy Hook with accommodation train for Philadelphia; JESSE HOYT 4 P. M., connecting with way-train for Tom's River. For Port Monmouth, Navesink, Middletown, Red Bank and Shrewsbury, connecting at Eatontown Junction with 8 A. M., and at Port Monmouth Pier with 4 P. M. boat. Philadelphia freight received at lowest rates up to 6 P. M. and forwarded with dispatch. Way freight to 4 P. M.

JAMES FISK, Jr., President.
M. R. SIMONS, Managing Director.

NARRAGANSETT STEAM-SHIP CO.

FOR BOSTON,
Via FALL RIVER, touching at NEWPORT.
DAILY, (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED,) AT 4 P. M.,
From Pier No. 30 North River, foot of Chambers-st.
WINTER ARRANGEMENT.
The splendid steamers

NEWPORT,	OLD COLONY,
Com. A. G. SIMMONS,	Com. B. M. SIMMONS,
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.	Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

FREIGHT RECEIVED UP TO 4 P. M.
JAMES FISK, JR., President.
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FOR BRIDGEPORT AND ALL POINTS on Housatonic and Naugatuck Railroads: fare, $1. Steamers leave Catharine-slip at 12 noon every day, (Sundays excepted.)

FOR NEW-HAVEN, HARTFORD AND THE NORTH.—Steamers leave Peck-slip for New-Haven at 3:15 and 11 P. M., connecting with road.

GAS FIXTURES, &C.

FINE CHANDELIERS
AND
GAS-FIXTURES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,
AT LOW PRICES,
IN MOST COMPLETE AND VARIED ASSORTMENT IN GILT, CRYSTAL, REAL BRONZE, IMITATION BRONZE,
and all desirable colors,
OF DESIGNS UNEQUALED IN EXCELLENCE,
Appropriate for
DWELLINGS, HOTELS, STORES, HALLS, CHURCHES, &c.
ALSO, GILT, BRONZE AND MARBLE CLOCKS.

These movements strike the hours and half hours; have the low tick and pleasant strike of the best French clocks, and as time-keepers are warranted equal to the best, and much superior to the ordinary imported clocks.

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Manufacturers.
SALES-ROOMS, NO. 597 BROADWAY,
near Houston-st.
Manufactory, 24th-st. and 10th-av., New-York City.

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FRANCIS & LOUTREL, NO. 45 Maiden-lane, offer a large assortment of fancy stationery suitable for holiday gifts. Diaries for 1871

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FURNITURE TAKEN ON STORAGE in the lofts No. 18 4th-av. Apply on the premises to CONKLINS & BAYLES.

MARBLE MANTELS.

S. KLABER & CO.'S MARBLE WORKS, No. 223 West 51st., between Broadway and 8th-av.—Marble and Marbleized Mantels, Monuments; original designs; cheapest in the City.

BUSINESS CHANCES.

IDLE CAPITAL AND BUSINESS ABILITY.—A call at Room No. 111 Astor House will give you your opportunity.

MERRIE CHRISTMAS OF OLD.

Quaint and Curious Customs and Their Origin.

About the Yule Log, the Mistletoe Bough, the Lord of Misrule, and Carol Singing—Queer Ceremonies and Superstitions of the Past.

"'Tis good to be merry and wise," says the proverb; and now, if ever, when the joyous season of the Holidays is close upon us, is the time to relax a little from care and toil, and, in fact, to be as merry as we may. Of all the many holidays which occur during the year, none is so truly and so heartily welcomed by all as Christmas. And although the excessive feasting and drinking, the masques, plays and public hilarity of all sorts, which once ushered in this holiday, no longer exist, having given place to quieter joys, still the spirit of mirth and good humor is prevalent everywhere; for Christmas yet gathers the scattered members of the family once more around the familiar hearth; renews long-sundered ties, and reawakens sympathy in the heart of man for his fellow-creatures.

CHRISTMAS IN THE OLDEN TIME.

Upon this day, which has come down to us through long centuries, it is pleasant to revert to the quaint and curious customs with which our forefathers once celebrated it; to the profuse hospitality which graced their board, and their simple, heartfelt enjoyment of all the sports and innocent amusements appertaining to the day. No wonder that England, in the good old days long past, gained the soubriquet of Merrie England! Then, every lordly mansion spread its tables bounteously, and threw wide open its doors, inviting all who would to come, "eat, drink and be merry!" Then the cheerful light of the Yule log illuminated the vast hall, and the songs of minstrels, with the sweet tones of the harp, mingled with the shouts of laughter which welcomed the Merry Christmas tales, or the witticisms inspired by the foam-covered wassail-bowl. From castle to cottage, every dwelling was decked with the famous mistletoe bough, amid which gleamed the red holly berries.

THE MISTLETOE BOUGH.

From the very earliest times we may trace the use of evergreens and flowers for festivals and various religious ceremonies, they being universally regarded as emblems of joyousness. When Christ entered Jerusalem we are told he permitted green boughs to be strewn in his pathway, and therefore it is not strange that the earliest Christians and their followers forever after should have adopted these as the symbols of their rejoicing at the coming of the Redeemer. The mistletoe bough, however, long before the Christian era, appears to have been well known to the ancient Greeks and Romans, and by them regarded with reverence. The mistletoe is supposed to have been the sacred branch to which VIRGIL refers in his description of his descent into the infernal regions. The Druids and the Celtic nations attributed many valuable medicinal qualities to the mistletoe, calling it *allheal*. In Wales it was known as *guidhel*. Upon the approach of every New-Year the Druids collected the mistletoe with great ceremony, and from this custom originated the present one of gathering green Christmas boughs. The mistletoe was cut with a golden sickle, by the chief of the Druid priests, and placed upon a white cloth. The priests who assisted at the ceremony were also clad in white robes, and the solemnities with which the mistletoe was gathered served to increase the superstitions of the people toward it. Even as late as the seventeenth century, mysterious healing properties were ascribed to it, and COLES, in his *Art of Simpling*, printed in 1656, gravely informs us that "If one hang mistletoe about the neck, the witches can have no power over him." In many houses the mistletoe bough is still hung at Christmas time in the doorway, or suspended from the ceiling, and under this, as every one knows, the young men, and sometimes the old, assume the privilege of snatching a kiss from any one of the fairer sex. In Sicily and Germany the mistletoe is set up in the parlor as a Christmas tree, and laden with presents. Little waxen candles of various colors are also lighted amid its branches. This beautiful custom has found its way into our own country, and not only private families, but many churches also, have their Christmas trees, around which the little ones gather joyfully. And what pleasanter scene does Christmas present than that of a group of lovely, happy children, with a look of joyful expectancy on their little faces, gathered around the Christmas tree!

THE LORD OF MISRULE.

In olden times, a Christmas Prince was chosen, who was called the Lord of Misrule. His power extended over the twelve days of the Christmas season, and during this time he was a most important personage. The Lord of Misrule is said to have been of great antiquity. FABER says that he derived his origin from an old Perrico-Gothic festival in honor of Buddha. During the saturnalia of the ancient Romans, also, a King or ruler over the feast was annually chosen, and, during his brief reign, no war was carried on, no man was executed, and the base-born slave enjoyed the same freedom as his master. The Lord of Misrule, in Scotland, was called the Abbot of Unreason; and in France, the Abbé de Malgouverné and Abbé de Liesse. He presided not only over all Court festivities, but every noble family, and even the different colleges, had their Lord of Misrule. In the time of Queen MARY, when England set about retrenching her expenses, it was ordained that neither the Lord Mayor nor the Sheriff should keep a Lord of Misrule in any of their houses. STUBBS, in his *Anatomie of Abuses*, published in 1595, condemns

> "the conduct of a sort of parish or county Lord of Misrule, with his hobby horses, dragons and riotous followers, decorated with scarfs, ribbons and laces, hung on with gold rings, precious stones and other jewels—with bells about their legs and rich handkerchiefs in their hands. They carried their license so far as to dance into the churches even during the time of service."

No wonder the Puritans frowned upon this graceless Prince, who had no respect either of time or of place. In 1632, at a grand Christmas banquet in the Middle Temple, the Lord of Misrule was attended by his Lord Keeper, Lord Treasurer, eight white staves, a band of pensioners, with their Captain, and two chieftains, with their officers. His venison was supplied by Lord HOLLAND, and his wine by the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of London. During the reign of HENRY VIII., in 1542, the Lord of Misrule ceased to exist until the accession of Queen MARY to the throne, when he reappeared, and seems to have enjoyed himself in the old-fashioned way throughout the long reign of Queen BESS. But this leader of high revels was at length obliged to succumb to the growing severity of opinion, and we hear no more of him until after the Restoration, when he again resumed his sceptre, but never regained his former splendor. At the present day he is known only as the Twelfth Night King. In Scotland, the Abbot of Unreason was often represented by personages of the highest rank, and King JAMES V. himself is said once to have laid aside his royal crown to assume the mock sceptre of this queer personage.

SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

One very ancient custom, which formerly ushered in the Christmas festival, and which continues to some extent even up to the present day, was the singing of Christmas carols. The term carol originally meant song, intermingled with dancing. At one time carols were sung at all great feasts; but they are now almost wholly identified with Christmas. In Germany it was the custom for persons of both sexes to go from house to house singing carols on the three Thursdays preceding Christmas. They also knocked upon the doors, and wished the dwellers within a happy New-Year. This custom still prevails to some extent in England. At all the splendid Christmas festivals, the singing of carols formed an important part. The famous boar's head, which was the first and most honored dish at the feast, was brought to the table in great state, its bearer being preceded by music, the sound of trumpets and the singing of carols. The boar's-head carols were always of three verses, and were sung "to the glorie of the blessed Trynytie." Of such importance was the office of boar's-head bearer as early as 1170, that England's august monarch, HENRY II., himself brought the dish to the table of the Prince, his young son. Queen's College of Oxford is famous for its Christmas carol.

"*Caput apri defero,*
Reddens laudes Domino,
The bore's head in hande brynge I,
With garlandes gay and rosemary,
I pray you all synge merely,
Qui estis in convivio."

The boar's head, at this College, is said to be commemorative of the brave act of a student who was once fiercely attacked by a wild boar, while walking in a neighboring forest, and engaged in reading ARISTOTLE. When the beast rushed upon him, the youth with great presence of mind thrust the volume into his open mouth, crying out *græcum est*—thus choking ferocity with wisdom! The boar's head was decked with sweet-scented herbs, and a lemon was placed in its mouth. In SHAKESPEARE'S time carols were sung at night, through the streets, during Christmas, by the *waits*, who expected to receive gratuities for their songs. The "wakefull ketches on Christmas Eve" are mentioned by many a quaint old writer. As the Reformation abolished the singing of Latin hymns in the churches, the Christmas carols were substituted, and came into general use in the country churches. Christmas carols were divided into two kinds—the one being of a religious nature, and sung not only in the churches, but through the streets, from house to house, upon Christmas Eve, and afterward morning and even until Twelfth Day; the others are of a livelier character, and adapted to the revel and the feast. Some of these latter were called wassail songs, and originated with the Anglo-Normans, who were of a most convivial nature. In the seventeenth century no entertainment was considered complete without the singing of carols, and it is probable that about this time the motto, "No song, no supper," came into vogue, for every one at table was expected to join in the carol. Says an English squire at his Christmas feast:

"Not a man here, shall taste my *March* beer,
Till a Christmas carol he does sing;
Then all clapt their hands, and shouted, and sung,
Till the hall and the parlor did ring."

From a quaint old work we also clip the following:

"The antientest master of the revels is, after dinner and supper, to sing a caroll, or song; and to command the other gentlemen there present to sing with him and the companie."

Some of these old carols had queer enough titles, and they seem to have referred to all subjects. Here is the dedication prefixed to one in the last century:

"A Christmas carol on 'Peko-Tea.' A sacred carol, which, like tea that is perfectly good and fine, will be most grateful and useful all the year round. From Christmas to Christmas forever. Humbly addressed to Queen CAROLINE and the Princess CAROLINA, and all the Royal Family. By FRANCIS HOFFMAN. London, 1729."

Carol-singing continued in all its vigor until the close of the last century, since when it has gradually declined. But in the northern part of England they still sing carols; and even in the great metropolis some solitary veteran, who has not forgotten his old-time habit, may sometimes be heard on Christmas Eve, singing, in a plaintive voice, "God rest you merry, gentlemen!" But, as each year after year goes by, some quaint, familiar custom, which has been gradually receding from our view, fades silently away, and is lost in the dim shadows of the past. So many a stately and splendid ceremony, many a royal feast, many an innocent sport, and many a wilder revel, which once ushered in the merry Christmas time, has dropped away into oblivion; but never, we may venture to say, will Christmas, the birthday of our Savior, cease to be remembered and joyfully celebrated. And may each Christmas as it comes be merrier than the last!

RECONSTRUCTED JAPANESE.

Progress of Some of the Japanese Students in San Francisco—Their Present Inclination to Come to the East.

From the San Francisco Bulletin, Dec. 16.

Illustrative of the wholesome good flowing from the pleasant relations between the United States and Japan, we have only to glance at the Japanese who have been, or are at present, in process of reconstruction at the collegiate institutions of the country. Three years ago, two Japanese officials, pursuant to instructions from their own Government, came to California to study the language and customs of the American people. They learned English rapidly, and displayed great eagerness and aptitude for the acquisition of a thorough knowledge of mathematics. In fact, a thirst for mathematics is one of the characteristics of the race. The two representatives of Japan to whom we refer made excellent progress in their studies at the City College, and returned home with a high opinion of America and her people. The information disseminated among the Japanese stimulated others to violate time-honored traditions, and in a brief space of time another delegation from the two-sworded or aristocratic class put in an appearance here. The Japanese arriving on this occasion were youths of from fifteen to twenty years of age, intelligent-looking, athletic fellows—full of life and spirits. While en route to the port they commenced to abandon their national customs and dress, and assumed American garments. The top-knot was discarded, the hair allowed to grow in front, and carefully parted at the side, and since that time, Japanese students have invariably dressed as Americans before landing here. Of the second installment of Japanese which arrived here, two young men displayed remarkable proficiency in their studies—one excelling in geometry and physical geography, and the other in the English language. The geometrical expert was appointed to the command of a Japanese ship, soon after his return home; the linguist became the interpreter for the Mikado's brother, and subsequently accompanied his employer to this country. Instances similar to the above are not of unusual occurrence, if the statements of the Japanese are to be relied upon. They relate that the Japanese who travel abroad, and become educated in the language of foreign nations, are treated with increased respect upon returning to their native land. About one year ago, a Japanese Prince of high rank came to San Francisco, and entered the educational institution previously mentioned. In his own language he was well informed, and being naturally bright and intelligent, he succeeded in making admirable progress. The difficulties which are encountered in mastering the English language may readily be imagined when we state his age—thirty-five years. Nevertheless, he returned home at the expiration of a year, able to read and write English. In his own language, the Prince could write in three different styles, to wit: the Katakan language or colloquial, the mandarin, and a script. When asked what special reason his people had for desiring to be educated in this country, the Prince said that his people desired to know how a country less populous than Japan could be so much more powerful. The Prince returned to Japan some months ago, but will resume his studies next year. In all twenty Japanese have attended the City College within the past three years; at present there are but two of the race at the institution. The Japanese have manifested a dislike to stay in California since the completion of the railroad, and those who now visit this country for educational purposes generally make a short stay here and then pass on to the Eastern States. But they all become thoroughly imbued with American ideas, and use them promiscuously at home. The old fogy notions which kept the Japanese from intercourse with the civilized world have been shattered—to the special advantage of America; and the introduction of "reconstructed Japs" among their countrymen cannot fail to improve our commercial relations with the country.

Female Kleptomaniacs in Boston—Numerous Arrests.

From the Boston Journal, Dec. 24.

The enticing displays which our shopkeepers have made for Christmas and New-Year have called out many cases of stealing which seem to come under the above head. A few days ago Detective LITTLEFIELD, of the State Police, arrested a middle-aged lady in JORDAN, MARSH & CO.'s stores for stealing a number of boys' scarfs. She was taken to head-quarters, and at first gave an assumed name. She was finely dressed, probably to the extent of $500, and had plenty of money in her pocket. She finally told her real name, and she was found to be the wife of a prominent and wealthy business man of this city, living at home in good style in Dorchester. Major JONES was inexorable, and she was brought before the Municipal Court and fined $20 and costs.

A day or two ago Detective PINKHAM had almost exactly a like case of a wealthy lady, well dressed, whose husband is in a thriving business, residing in Peabody in first-rate style. She had plenty of money with her when detected stealing. Again the law took its inexorable course, and the Court not being in session at the time, she had to be taken to the lockup. Her husband drove in from Peabody and gave bail in $1,000, and took her home, and declares his willingness to sacrifice the $1,000 rather than have her come into Court; but other legal proceedings have been taken which will compel her appearance. Within a day or two the State Police have had exactly the same kind of a case of a middle-aged, well-dressed lady, living in Lowell, arrested for shop-lifting with plenty of money in her pocket, and just after depositing $200 in a city bank. Apropos of this, old detectives call to mind many cases of this kind, among which was that some years ago of a wealthy lady of this city whose shop-lifting propensities were known, and she was always watched closely. The articles which she took were noted and charged to her as if she had honestly bought them.

AFFAIRS IN ITALY.

The Spanish Delegation—Address to the New King of Spain and His Reply—The Ceremonies and the Enthusiasm—Matters in Rome—Burning of the Body of an Indian Prince.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FLORENCE, Monday, Dec. 5, 1870.

The King, who has a good deal of leisure for hunting and other amusements suited to his tastes, has within the past few days been kept pretty busy by a multiplicity of calls upon his attention. On Saturday last the Spanish delegation, bringing the Cortes Crown vote, came into town, and through lines of the National Guard were conducted to the hotel assigned for their accommodation; while the people clapped their hands and cheered as they have done a hundred times before. On Sunday, at 11 o'clock, the commissioners went to the Pitti Palace, where the formalities of presentation and acceptance were held in the presence of the King, the Prince AMEDEO, the Sovereign elect, and the other members of the family of VICTOR EMMANUEL, the Diplomatic Corps, the Ministers of the Crown, and a considerable number of civil and military functionaries. Eighty discharges of cannon from the fortress increased the éclat while the ceremonies were going on. The streets, as usual, were filled with a gaping crowd of curious idlers, who saw nothing except a dozen or two servants in red liveries, sitting or standing upon coach-box or foot-board of carriages containing the hundred or less olive-faced visitors from the Iberian Peninsula, come to ask an Italian Prince to consent to have them for his subjects, or to be their gracious and loyal sovereign. December began with a degree of cold suited to a Winter of the extreme north, and up to this writing there has been little improvement. On the ceremonial day the mercury was near zero, and soon fell dubiously. Italians and Spaniards looked blue, and all longed for a gleam of sunshine to cheer a really happy event.

THE ADDRESS TO THE KING.

Arrived at the Palace, the President of the delegation first directed his address to the King, in a short speech, in which the decision of the Cortes was announced, and a formal demand made for the sovereign consent to the acceptance by the son of the offered crown. The King replied with a few suitable words. The delegate then turned to the King elect and rehearsed a long story, in which the word glory was repeated several times; to which the Prince AMEDEO made as long a reply, he also using the word glory and glorious six or seven times. It was the maiden speech of the royal neophyte. All that is essential in these discourses you will know long before this comes to hand.

SIGNING THE DOCUMENTS.

Afterward followed the signing by all hands of high authority of the duplicate documents which give legal and historic proof of this important act; to be pigeon-holed in the archives of the two States. An hour was taken up with these proceedings; after which the delegation returned to their hotel in the same order in which they came. The Spaniards are the objects of many attentions, and dinners and a variety of festive entertainments have been or are to be given in their honor.

THE NEW KING.

The Spanish King will soon set off for his adopted country, and will ascend the throne with the title of AMEDEO I. No one doubts that the young Sovereign will be faithful to what he has promised in his speech, and do his best to serve the interests of Spain, and win the affection and strengthen the loyalty of the sixteen millions who populate the Peninsula. The Prince comes of a stock distinguished for good sense, chivalric devotion, manliness and sincerity, and Spain, under the new régime, will have an opportunity to take a respectable position among second-class States.

ROME.

From Rome an item of intelligence comes, almost as interesting to us as to the Italians themselves. In 1860 the Emperor of France bought of the King of Naples, the owner by inheritance, all of that portion of the Farnese Gardens, so called, covering many acres of the Palace of the Cæsars, in which since, at an outlay from his private purse of at least fifty thousand francs a year, extensive excavations have been going on. Very recently the Ex-Emperor, of his own accord, has offered to sell to the Italian Government this property, and a few days ago a contract for the transfer was signed, on condition of the payment of 650,000 francs. Many private individuals of wealth would have been glad to make the purchase at such a price, both from pride of possession and the archæological value of the site. No place in the world has more illustrious historic associations. Under the control of the Italian Government, the excavations will be completed, and, without doubt, new art treasures be brought to light. Work in the Roman Forum has already been begun, with the promise of much benefit to antiquarian science.

CREMATION OF AN EAST INDIAN PRINCE.

The Florentines have had, this week, another novelty added to the variety to which they have lately been treated. A young East Indian Prince, on his travels, died at one of the hotels here, and, according to the customs of his country, it was necessary to go through the ceremony of burning the body. It is a good many hundred years since the Etruscan and Roman ancestors of present Italians gave up the habit of reducing the body to ashes after death, and so it was at first difficult to get the authority to consent to a function so out of date. But by the intervention of the British Minister, a compatriot of the deceased, liberty was obtained, and between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning of the raw and windy 1st of December, about five hundred persons of both sexes met in a remote part of the public promenade of the Cascine, to be witnesses of the strange spectacle. The body was wrapped in robes of princely dignity worn in life, with the pearls and other ornaments so much loved in the semi-barbaric East. The attendants threw upon the burning mass camphor and other gums, going through a variety of rites prescribed in the system of Buddha for similar dismal occasions. The ashes were gathered up in due form, and inclosed and sealed, to be sent to the native country of the deceased. The Florentines came back, half-chilled with cold and horror, content that their wierd curiosity had once more found something to feed upon; and the newspaper writers have exhausted themselves upon their new theme.

ANGELICO.

Semi-Annual Dividends Payable in Boston in January.

The Boston papers publish their usual statement of the dividends payable in that city in January, which shows the following aggregates: Miscellaneous, $896,500; interest on bonds, $7,437,182; manufacturing dividends, $1,067,200; railroad dividends, $3,825,267; total Jan. 1, 1871, $13,136,149. The amount paid in July last was $11,988,417, and in January preceding $11,386,985. The dividends of railways run very even, as has been usual for several semi-annually periods. Dividends paid in December escape Government tax, and the railroads usually paying Jan. 1 have availed of this "lapse in the law," no provision having been made for the term between Aug. 1, 1870, and Jan. 1, 1871. Manufacturing dividends are in some instances better than has been anticipated, showing small gains by several. As a whole, however, they do not present flattering results. The Appleton increases from four to five per cent.; Atlantic, three to four; Chicopee, eight to twenty; Great Falls, three to four; Hamilton, none to three; Jackson, six to eight; Middlesex, seven to ten; Nashua, four to five; Pacific, six to eight; Salisbury, five to six; Stark, three to four per cent. The Douglas Ax reduces from five to four per cent.; Langdon, four to three. The Naumkeag and Washington pass.

The State of Massachusetts and City of Boston pay principal and interest in coin as usual. The gold payments are, United States, $5,079,060; Massachusetts, $224,675; City of Boston, $157,000; Cambridge, $3,750; Atlantic and Pacific and South Pacific Railroads, $105,000; Union Pacific, $300,000. The latter two companies pay about the same amount in New-York on bonds held there. Payments on other securities amount to $77,982, making a total of $5,946,407 in gold. The Gold payments at the Boston Sub-Treasury will be about $5,079,000, the amount of coupons being estimated, but the registered bonds are the exact sum. The entire issue of $64,457,320 currency bonds (to the Pacific Railroads) are registered. The total Gold interest maturing January will amount to over $31,000,000. The payments will be on Coupon 6s of 1881, Five-Twenty 6s of 1865-7-8, and five per cent. bonds of 1871 and 1874, also the principal of 1871 bonds.

OUR NAVY.

What it Costs to Run a Crack Frigate—Yearly Expenses of the Franklin.

The amount of money required yearly to pay the expenses of our first-class frigates, has sometimes been "guessed at" and alluded to in a very indefinite sort of way in the reports of the Secretary of the Navy, and the speeches of Congressmen in discussing the subject of naval expenditures, but it is only within the last two years that any figures could be obtained by which any correct estimate could be made, owing to the complicated systems and diverse methods of keeping accounts; the truth being hard to get, not from any desire of the authorities to withhold information, but each of the eight bureaus transacting the business of the navy having a system of its own. Even to this day, the book-keeping of the navy is of the most absurd character, and may, in fact, be said to be of no character at all. As an example, we will take the splendid frigate *Franklin*, the best wooden vessel we have, mounting 39 guns, and now performing duty in Europe as the flag-ship of our pigmy squadron. She is of 3,173 tons burden, and about the same class of vessel as the *Colorado, Minnesota* and *Wabash*. Her complement is 40 officers, 60 marines, 88 petty officers, 90 seamen, 134 ordinary seamen, 200 landsmen and boys, and about 40 in the engineer's department doing duty as firemen and coal-heavers, making a total of 652 souls on board. She cost about $2,000,000, and has always attracted attention and admiration in every port she has visited on the other side of the water.

Below is a calculation of what it costs to keep her on duty, or, in naval phraseology, "in commission:"

Read-Admiral	$6,000
Chief of Staff (a Captain)	4,500
Admiral's Secretary	2,000
Chaplain	2,800
Captain of vessel	4,500
Five Lieutenant-Commanders, $3,000 each	15,000
Two Masters, $2,000 each	4,000
Six Midshipmen, $1,000 each	6,000
Three Surgeons	7,600
Chief Engineer	3,500
Three engineers	5,000
Pay-master	3,500
Five clerks	4,850
Two marine officers	3,200
Four warrant officers, $1,300 each	5,200
Admiral's servants	1,720
Ward-room servants	2,472
Captain's servants	972
Steerage servants	2,088
Musicians	5,480
Petty officers	36,952
Seamen	48,228
Landsmen and boys	27,600
Engineer's men	12,000
Marines	12,000
Repairs	25,000
Coal, wood, oil, &c	5,000
Provisions, medicines, &c	100,000
Interest on vessel's cost at seven per cent	14,000
Total	$371,162

Panic in a Crowded Church—Fortunate Escape from a Serious Disaster.

From the Pittsburg (Penn.) Chronicle, Dec. 23.

A panic occurred, last evening, among the auditors assembled at the First Christian Church, at Beaver-street and Montgomery-avenue. The Sunday-school was giving a concert, assisted by the Allegheny Quartet Club, and the auditorium was crowded with spectators, with smoke was seen issuing from the wainscoting near one of the heaters. Some indiscreet individual cried "fire!" and in an instant the entire audience was alarmed. A rush was made for the doors, and for a time the most terrifying screams were heard. Several ladies fainted from fright, while others wept. The crowds pushing toward the doors soon blockaded the aisles, and for some moments it seemed that many would be trampled to death. A number of persons who had secured seats in the gallery attempted to make their way out, but when they reached the front of the stairway they found the door opening into the vestibule had been locked. They were so terrified that they kicked at the door until the hinges were broken, and thus escaped, as they thought, the terrible death that awaited them. While the panic was at its height a number of gentlemen, who had maintained their self-possession, rushed to the place where the smoke was issuing, and after tearing off several feet of the wainscoting, succeeded in extinguishing the fire with a few buckets of water. While this was being done, other gentlemen were endeavoring to quiet the fears of the audience, and finally succeeded in clearing the doors so that all passed out in safety. No one was seriously injured, although a number were bruised by being crowded against the seats. The fire, which is supposed to have been communicated to the wainscoting by the stove or heater, did but little damage.

The Nitro-Glycerine Explosion at the Hoosac Tunnel.

From the Troy Times, Dec. 24.

The glycerine magazine of GEO. W. MOWBRAY, at the Hoosac tunnel, blew up about 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon. The magazine contained 1,500 pounds of glycerine, and was situated some twenty rods from the manufactory. JOHN V. VELCHER, the superintendent of the works, took a small bottle containing fulminate of mercury (used in the manufacture of exploders) from the works, saying at the time that he would take it for fear that some one would be injured by it. He started for the magazine, and had only been gone about five minutes when the explosion took place. He was in the habit of taking off his coat upon entering the works, or magazine, and it is supposed that he did so at this time, and the bottle containing the mercury striking something exploded. Mr. VELCHER was about fifty years of age, and a very exemplary man. He leaves three children—his wife having been dead several years. Two of his children arrived in North Adams from New-York on the 4 P. M. train to spend Christmas with their father. How suddenly and terribly their joy has been turned into sorrow! The children had not seen their father for six years. Mr. VELCHER had been in the employ of Mr. MOWBRAY for a long time, and felt perfectly safe when handling this explosive. The surface of the ground is strewn with fragments of the building for a distance of fifty rods. Nothing remains to show where the building was located.

A correspondent of the *Press* says: "Mr. VELCHER was to be married in a few days to a young lady from Stockbridge. About twenty pounds of his remains have been gathered up, placed in a casket and deposited in the tomb."

The German Ladies' Fair—Letter to an Editor by Queen Augusta.

Queen AUGUSTA, of Prussia, has written the following letter to Dr. VICTOR PRECHT, the editor of the journal published at the recent German Ladies' Fair, in this City:

I have received with true emotion the newspapers recording the proceedings of the Fair which the Germans in New-York had instituted with such marked success for the benefit of the wounded and the relatives of our brave army, and express to you my sincere thanks for having transmitted the same. In these grave times all bars of space, all differences of rank and confession fall; all Germans feel as one great family, and are inspired by one idea, the thought of the welfare of the dear Fatherland.

(Signed,) AUGUSTA.

BERLIN, Dec. 1, 1870.

Immigration for the Week.

The total number of alien immigrants arrived during the week was 2,445. The *Sidonia* brought 150 Italians. The following is the list for the week:

Dec. 17—Steamer Hansa, Bremen	489
Dec. 17—Steamer Europa, Glasgow	161
Dec. 17—Steamer Missouri, Havana	25
Dec. 18—Steamer Iowa, Glasgow	67
Dec. 18—Steamer Copernicus, Buenos Ayres	11
Dec. 18—Steamer Tybee, San Domingo	4
Dec. 19—Ship American Congress, London	28
Dec. 20—Steamer Sidonia, Marseilles	150
Dec. 20—Steamer Thuringia, Hamburg	338
Dec. 20—Steamer Nevada, Liverpool	625
Dec. 20—Steamer City of Cork, Liverpool	68
Dec. 20—Steamer Merriman, Rio Janeiro	10
Dec. 20—Steamer Rapidan, Havana	15
Dec. 20—Steamer Morro Castle, Havana	26
Dec. 20—Bark Clara, Buenos Ayres	1
Dec. 21—Steamer Tyrian, Trieste	6
Dec. 21—Steamer City of London, Liverpool	305
Dec. 21—Steamer Russia, Liverpool	225
Dec. 22—Steamer Guiding Star, Antwerp	131
Dec. 22—Steamer Rhein, Bremen	181
Dec. 22—Steamer Cleopatra, Havana	14
Dec. 25—Steamer Pennsylvania, Liverpool	236
Total	2,684

Arrest of Two Ladies for Shoplifting—The Dangers of Shopping.

Two ladies were arrested yesterday at MACY'S store, Sixth-avenue and Fourteenth-street, charged with stealing small articles. One of the prisoners said that she had purchased a small watch-safe early on Friday and carried it home. Subsequently deciding to have it exchanged for something else she had noticed, she took it back to MACY'S yesterday afternoon for that purpose. Laying the article on the showcase she informed one of the attendants of her wishes, but failed to attract her attention. Finding it impossible to have her business attended to, the lady picked up her things and started homeward, only to find herself arrested as a thief, being deprived of her satchel and some bundles. When arraigned before Superintendent KELSO, special officer WOODS, who made the arrest, insisted on making the charge, so the accused was locked up. The other prisoner was subsequently arrested for the theft of a box of pomatum, value twenty cents, which she had picked up with the intention of paying for it when the sales-woman returned. Both of the ladies were compelled to remain at Police Head-quarters all night. Search was made up to a late hour for Justice DOWLING by the relatives of the ladies, who are respectably connected, in order to secure their release on bail, but he could not be found. From the statements made last night, it would appear that a great wrong had been committed.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Fair.

The prospects for a liberal supply of funds from this Fair are not very encouraging. The attendance has not been large thus far, and the receipts are not much more than the current expenses. The ladies and managers of the Fair are doing their best, but unaided they cannot accomplish everything. The object should attract thousands where hundreds are drawn thither, and each visitor should expend more liberally than those who were present last evening appeared to. The Art Gallery alone is worth more than the price of admission, for there can be seen pictures so perfect and beautiful that even the camera would fail to reproduce them. Visitors to the Fair should bear in mind the objects for which it has been organized and be as liberal as their purses will admit.

Fiendish Conduct Toward a Sailor Boy.

DANIEL T. MONTGOMERY, first mate of the American ship *Port-au-Platte*, was arrested yesterday by Deputy Marshal BERNHARD, and was brought before Commissioner SHIELDS, on a charge of cruelly treating OTTO MEYER, aged 16, a cabin boy on the same vessel. It was alleged that the prisoner, during last month, in a voyage from a Southern port, frequently assaulted MEYER without any provocation, and subjected him generally to gross ill-treatment. On one occasion he beat him into a condition of insensibility with a broom-handle, and subsequently kicked him in the leg, breaking the spinal bone. From the result of these injuries MEYER has been completely prostrated for several weeks, and his appearance at the Commissioner's office yesterday excited great commiseration. The boy presented a very youthful and gentle appearance, but his face and body were covered with bruises. MONTGOMERY was committed to Ludlow-street Jail to await an examination.

LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF.

NEW-YORK.

Superintendent KELSO has assigned the detectives of the Central Police to duty on the various street railroad and stage lines left without surveillance by the remanding of the Ward car detectives to post duty. The work of protecting the thousands of daily passengers by street-cars and stages from the depredations of pickpockets has thus been placed in the hands of Capt. IRVING and his experienced detectives.

There is now on exhibition, at No. 542 Broadway, the little boat, *The City of Ragusa*, 1¾ tons, which performed the wondrous feat, some months ago, of crossing the Atlantic after a most perilous voyage from Liverpool. Her dimensions are 20 feet over all, 6 feet beam and 2 feet 9¾ inches depth of hold, and her appearance is so insignificant that many would be afraid to trust themselves in her outside Sandy Hook. Her sole occupants were two men and a dog. After ninety-six weary days they reached Boston, and since then President GRANT, most of the State officials and 40,000 citizens have inspected the little craft.

The body of the man who was run over and killed on Thursday night by a locomotive of the Boston train on Fourth-avenue, near Forty-second-street, has been identified as that of CHARLES THOMPSON, recently residing in One Hundred and Thirteenth-street. Deceased was a single man and the sole support of an aged mother and an invalid sister. An inquest will be held by Coroner ROLLINS, who has ascertained that the deceased was under the influence of liquor at the time of the casualty.

Architect Lodge No. 519 Free and Accepted Masons elected the following officers for the next Masonic year at their lodge-rooms, southeast corner of Third-avenue and Eighty-sixth-street: Master, Jacob T. Van Winkle; Senior Warden, James Gribble; Junior Warden, William H. Berrian; Treasurer, John H. Boswell; Secretary, William A. Conklin; Trustees, N. Gano Dunn, James Maxwell, Geo. W. Johnson.

The census returns, which have already been submitted under the renumeration to the Marshal's office, show considerable decrease in various districts in the population as returned at the recent enumeration. In the Seventh District of the Seventeenth Ward the returns show a population of 3,148, against 3,448 returned under the original census, and in other districts there is a corresponding decrease.

An indictment prepared by Mayor Hall against the elevated railroad in Greenwich-street, on the ground of its being a nuisance, was "found" by the Grand Jury of this county yesterday. If the Company fails to demolish the railway, it will probably be called upon to answer in the Courts for perpetuating a nuisance.

Archbishop MCCLOSKEY has transferred Rev. Father HASSEN from the pastorate of Peekskill to that of the Transfiguration Church, on Mott-street, made vacant by the death of Rev. THOMAS TREANOR. Rev. Dr. MCSWEENEY, assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Cathedral, has been raised to the dignity of pastor of St. Mary's, at Peekskill.

The Board of Police, yesterday, dismissed Patrolmen J. J. MCNEENEY and J. H. PRIOR, both of the Twenty-second Precinct. OSCAR VAN TASSELL, patrolman of the Eleventh Precinct, was retired on a pension of $350 per annum. Acting Capt. WM. MCCLURG, of the Eighth Precinct, was promoted to the full rank.

Last evening Rev. Dr. KENDRICK BALL and Mr. CAMERON addressed the children of the Morning Star Sunday-school, at their rooms at No. 120 West Twenty-fourth-street. There was a large number of teachers and friends of the school in attendance.

Mr. ISAAC F. JONES, an old New-York printer, who was sun-struck last Summer, died yesterday, aged sixty-eight years. He joined the New-York Typographical Society in April, 1828. His funeral will take place on Tuesday morning.

During the week ending yesterday a petition involuntary bankruptcy was filed by JACOB B. LENT, and discharges in bankruptcy were received by ROBT. BURGESS, PATRICK E. REED, RILEY L. HAMILTON and WM. H. ALBERTS.

Sheriff BRENNAN and County Clerk LOEW will receive citizens' calls at the Sheriff's office, at the new Court-house, between 11 and 1 o'clock on the Monday succeeding New-Year's Day.

Yesterday afternoon the names of two appointees as inspectors, two as clerks, and two as store-keepers, were sent to Washington by Collector MURPHY for confirmation.

JAMES JOHNSON, an Englishman, died suddenly yesterday at No. 273 Water-street from intemperance.

BROOKLYN.

Miss LILLIAN S. EDGARTON, one of our most acceptable female speakers, will deliver her popular lecture, entitled "Whither are we Drifting?" in the Brooklyn Tabernacle, next Tuesday evening, Dec. 27, in aid of the Masonic Board of Relief for the Western District of Brooklyn. The Board have a great many very worthy cases of charity on their hands, and as there is great need of funds, we trust that Miss EDGARTON will have a full house on this occasion.

Among the new street railroads that have been recently chartered is the Williamsburg and Flatbush line, which is now being run with great success. It has a double track, and is supplied with cars of the most approved pattern. The route is from the Division-avenue and Roosevelt-street Ferry to the eastern entrance of Prospect Park, through Front-street, Kent, Classon, Flushing and Nostrand avenues. Other companies propose to construct connecting lines to Canarsie and Coney Island. The capital of the Company is $300,000. JOHN T. CONOVER is President.

Yesterday afternoon a small box of glycerine accidentally exploded at the house of MARTIN FITZGERALD, on Gold-street, near Tillary, blowing out the windows and so severely injuring FITZGERALD that his life is despaired of. A man named JOHN WALSH, who sat beside FITZGERALD, was also considerably hurt. The glycerine is supposed to have been left in the house by a sea captain who once occupied it.

Among the features of interest at the grand concert that was given at Plymouth Church on Thursday evening last, was the recitation of the original poem written by Col. HAMILTON, entitled the "Black Prophet." The poem was composed several years before the commencement of our late war.

The three-story brick residence of JAMES HAZLEHURST, at No. 589 St. Mark's-place, was set on fire yesterday afternoon by the hot-air pipes in the parlor and was damaged to the extent of $500.

The Franklin Division of the Sons of Temperance held a Fair at Masonic Hall during three days of the past week and netted a handsome amount.

At the United States District Court yesterday, Judge BENEDICT rendered a decision in favor of MAX NEWMAN against the bark *Elvin Kreplin* for $1,331 wages due him.

Capt. S. F. PHILLIPS, of the ship *Cleopatra*, was fined $25 yesterday by Justice WALSH, for unloading his cargo without a permit from the Board of Health.

A meeting of the Board of Assessors was held yesterday morning, WILLIAM FUREY presiding. A large number of petitions for abatements were presented.

The inquest on the body of JOHN ROURKE, who was killed during a quarrel in an Atlantic-street car, was adjourned yesterday by Coroner JONES until Wednesday next.

NEW-JERSEY.

The difficulties which arose at the time of the contest concerning the distribution of prizes in the New-Jersey State Guard rifle match have been settled, and the Governor has awarded the following prizes: The Commander-in-Chief's gold medal to Private BELCHER, of Company E of the Second Regiment; the Major-General's gold medal to Private MCNAIR, of Company E, Second Regiment, and the Remington rifle to Adjutant MARTIN, of the Third Regiment.

Yesterday afternoon, JAMES E. FARRELL, in the employ of the Jersey City Board of Water Commissioners, at Bellville, met with probably a fatal accident at the crossing at the west end of Bergen Cut.

The Republican Councilmen elect in Newark held a caucus on Friday night last and decided to vote for the following-named gentlemen as city officers: President of the Council, Alderman BAKER; City Clerk, Capt. James Gillen; Chief of the Fire Department, Elias R. Carhuff; Janitor at City Hall, P. Fisher; Messenger of the Council, Nathaniel P. Marsh.

A portmanteau containing property worth $600 was stolen, yesterday, from the Cunard Docks, at Jersey City. It was owned by Lieut. BURROWS, of the Sixtieth Royal Rifles, who arrived in the *Russia*, on Thursday, on his way to Canada.

A lad fifteen years old, named JOHN BELLOWES, was yesterday arrested in Jersey City for stealing $300 worth of tickets from the Erie Railway office on Exchange-place, where he was employed.

ARMY AND NAVY RECORD.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Commander William G. Temple is ordered to the command of the *Tennessee*, now fitting out at New-York. Pay-master Thos. G. Caswell, Second Assistant Engineers Edward J. Allen and Francis M. Ashton, Gunner Thomas P. Venable, and Sail-maker Francis Boom, to the *Tennessee*; Master Arthur A. Boyd, to the *Michigan*. Lieut.-Commander George W. Hayward and G. B. D. Glidden have been ordered from the Naval Academy, and ordered to the *Tennessee*. Lieut.-Commander Geo. F. Wild, Master N. W. Nichols, First Assistant Engineer Thomas T. McConnell, from the Boston Navy-yard, and ordered to the *Tennessee*; First Assistant Engineer James Sheridan, Boatswain Charles Miller, Carpenter Thomas T. Toy, from the New-York Navy-yard, and ordered to the *Tennessee*; Lieut. Wallace Graham and Chief Engineer W. B. Brooks, from the *Michigan*, and ordered to the *Tennessee*; Lieut.-Commander Charles T. Cotton, from the Portsmouth Navy-yard, and ordered to the *Tennessee*; Master Albert Ross, from the Washington Navy-yard, and ordered to the *Tennessee*; Surgeon James McMasters has been detached from special duty at New-York, and ordered to the *Tennessee*; Passed Assistant Surgeon Wm. S. Fort has been detached from the receiving-ship *Potomac*, and ordered to the *Tennessee*; Assistant Surgeon M. L. Ruth is detached from Philadelphia Navy-yard, and ordered to the *Tennessee*; Lieut.-Commander C. H. Davis, Jr., is detached from the *Portsmouth*, and placed on waiting orders; Second Assistant Engineer J. P. Kelley is detached from the *Terror*, and placed on waiting orders; Chief-Engineer W. W. Dungan is detached from duty as a member of the Board of Examiners, and placed on waiting orders. Lieut. Joseph H. Sylvester, unassigned, has been honorably discharged.

FOREIGN MARKETS.

LONDON, Dec. 23—1½ P. M.—Consols, 91⅞ for money and 91⅞@92 for the account. American Securities opened quiet, and are at this hour steady at the following figures:

Five-twenties, 1862	88¾
Five-twenties, 1865, old	88⅜
Five-twenties, 1867	87⅞
Ten-forties	87¼
Erie Shares	19⅞
Illinois Centrals	112
Atlantic and Great Western	23½

FRANKFORT, Dec. 23.—United States 5-20s, 1862, 94¼.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 23—1:20 P. M.—COTTON.—The market to-day opened firm at 8¾d. for Uplands and 8¾d. for Orleans. The sales to-day are estimated at 15,000 bales. The sales of the week have been 90,000 bales, including 16,000 bales to exporters and 4,000 bales on speculation. The stock on hand of all descriptions, is estimated at 374,000 bales including 99,000 American. The receipts of the week have been 73,000 bales, of which 53,000 bales were from the United States. BREADSTUFFS—Flour is firmer and 1s. higher: Western American, 26s. The last sales of Wheat were as follows: No. 2 Red Western Spring, 10s. 1d.@10s. 3d. for new, and 9s. 11d. for old; Red Winter, 10s. 7d.@10s. 8d.; White California, 11s. 3d.@11s. 4d. The receipts of Wheat for the past three days have been 27,500 quarters, of which 10,000 were from the United States. PROVISIONS are unchanged. PRODUCE—Lard declining; American, 63s. ₽ cwt.

LONDON, Dec. 23—1:20 P. M.—Refined PETROLEUM dull and declining. Calcutta LINSEED is a shade firmer, and prices have advanced to 50s.

LONDON, Dec. 23—Evening.—American Securities closed quiet. The Stock market closed quiet.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 23—Evening.—The COTTON market closed firm at unchanged prices. The sales of the day have been 12,000 bales, including 2,000 bales to speculators and exporters. The total stock afloat, from all ports, bound to Liverpool, is estimated at 449,000 bales, of which 345,000 are from the United States. LARD is easier, but not quotably lower.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—LINSEED-OIL closed easier at £29 ₽ ton.

ANTWERP, Dec. 22.—PETROLEUM closed firmer at 50¼f.

Passengers Sailed.

DEC. 24—*In steam-ship City of London, for Liverpool.*—W. G. Pitt, Friend Thos. Kelsall, Mr. Hottenger, F. Burley, J. S. Outrim, W. A. Orchard and friend, Rev. H. W. Phillips.

In steam-ship Montgomery, for Savannah.—R. H. Guerard, D. C. Carr, Henry C. Eaton and lady, Wm. Wilson and lady, Chas. F. Marks, George S. Babcook and lady, Miss M. Babcock, Jno. F. Clark, Wm. T. Hobson and lady, S. C. Tice, F. W. Wing, Henry Gray, M. Coleman and lady, H. H. Brown.

Passengers Arrived.

DEC. 24—*In steam-ship Lafayette, from Havre.*—Mr. Isaacs, Paul V. Darmaille, Mr. Haine, Mrs. [illegible] and infant, Mrs. Leon David, Mrs. Galliot, Miss Madelaine Mounot, Miss Catherine Langloff, Robert Wilson, James Emery, Straford Fridate, Mr. Duchochoit, Miss Eliza Aubeyt, Mrs. J. Cryer and son, Mr. Scheuter, wife and 4 children, Mr. Dalloz, wife and daughter, Mrs. V. Gambert and 2 daughters, Mr. Pellier, wife and child, Pierre Gusman, Pierre Audebert, Mr. Roullier, Mrs. Deslandet, Miss Lacaze and 2 infants.

DEC. 24—*In steam-ship Pennsylvania from Liverpool.*—Mrs. Farmer and family, Miss Warrell, Miss Dregg, Miss Brown, Miss Todd, Mrs. Grimes, Miss Bennett, Miss Baylis, Mr. Stein, Mr. Brennan and family, Mr. Bruff, Mr. Vanderbilt.

In steam-ship San Salvador, for Savannah—W. Ruggles, H. Douglass, Chas. Ruggles, W. Kirley, F. McRea, M. D., Caleb Gorton, F. B. Fay, Abram Mendell, Mrs. G. B. Camp, Mrs. A. E. Vail, A. A. Post, wife and servant, J. M. Ford and wife, P. Dooley, P. Campbell, P. Connolley.

NEWS PACKAGES FOR THE PRESS.

Captains and pursers of vessels arriving at this port are requested to deliver packages addressed to the New-York Associated Press, only to parties exhibiting the written authority of J. W. SIMONTON, General Agent.

News packages for the *Journal of Commerce, Times, Tribune, World, Sun, Express, Evening Post, Commercial Advertiser, Staats Zeitung* and *New-Yorker Demokrat*, should also be delivered only to the same parties.

MINIATURE ALMANAC—THIS DAY.
Sun rises.....7:23 | Sun sets.....4:38 | Moon sets...8:20
HIGH WATER—THIS DAY.
Sandy Hook.10:16 | Gov. Island.11:05 | Hell Gate..12:27

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

NEW-YORK......SATURDAY, Dec. 24.

Cleared.

Steam-ships City of Cork, (Br.,) Allen, Liverpool, via Halifax, J. G. Dale; City of Galveston, (new,) Eldridge, Galveston and Key West, C. H. Mallory; E. C. Knight, Johnson, Alexandria, George B. Merrick; Wm. P. Clyde, Sturgis, Philadelphia, Lorillard Steam-ship Company; Elizabeth, Clark, Baltimore, via Amboy and Camden; Franconia, Bragg, Portland, J. F. Ames; Europa, (Br.,) McDonald, Glasgow, Henderson Brothers; Iowa, (Br.,) Ovenstone, Glasgow, Henderson Brothers; General Meade, Sampson, New-Orleans, F. Baker; San Salvador, Nickerson, Savannah, W. R. Garrison; Montgomery, Faircloth, Savannah, Robert Lowden; Sidonia, (Br.,) McKay, Savannah, Henderson Brothers; Geo. B. Upton, Roberts, Richmond, &c., Washington & Co.; Wyanoke, Bourne, Norfolk, &c., Old Dominion Steam-ship Co.; Hatteras, Laurence, Norfolk, &c., Old Dominion Steam-ship Co.; Nereus, Bearse, Boston, W. P. Clyde; Cortes, Nelson, New-Orleans, H. B. Cromwell & Co.; Bienville, Baker, New-Orleans, Livingston, Fox & Co.; Champion, Lockwood, Charleston, H. R. Morgan & Co.; Albemarle, Blackwood, Norfolk, &c., Old Dominion Steam-ship Co.; Saratoga, Couch, Norfolk, City Point, &c., Old Dominion Steam-ship Co.; Volunteer, Jones, Philadelphia, Lorillard Steam-ship Co.; Wamsutta, Fish, New-Bedford, Ferguson & Wood.

Ships Cynric, (Br.,) Wallace, London, E. E. Morgan's Sons; Mary Russell, Whitmore, Mobile, E. D. Hurlbut & Co.; William Tapscott, Spencer, London, E. E. Morgan's Sons.

Bark Carib, Jayne, St. Croix, P. Hanford & Co.

Brigs Attie Durkee, (Br.,) Murphy, Liverpool, Boyd & Hincken; Humming Bird, (Br.,) Macomber, Vigo, Spain, J. F. Whitney & Co.; Carl Petter, (Swed.,) Christiansen, Bilboa, Spain, Funch, Edye & Co.; T. H. A. Pitt, (Br.,) Locke, Hamilton, Bermuda, Middleton & Co.; Cacique, (Bras.,) Cintra, Rio Grande do Sul, Dowley, Corners & Co.; Walter Smith, Smith, Lisbon, James E. Ward & Co.; Nebo, (Br.,) McLeod, Fajardo, P. R., via New-London, G. A. Phillips & Collins.

Schrs. Joe Kelley, (Br.,) Ernst, Maracaibo via Curacoa, Perez & Obarrie; Franklin, Clark, Indianola and Lavacca, Tupper & Beattie; Lavolta, Whitmore, Galveston, C. H. Mallory & Co.; Warren Blake, Messervey, Savannah, S. H. Lond; Marguerite, (Fr.,) Taffarel, St. Pierre, Mart, H. A. Suan & Son; Hattie E. Smith, Brown, Mayaguez, B. J. Wenberg; F. St. Clair, Edwards, Milton, Barbados, Jones & Lough; S. P. Hawes, Jackson, Pensacola, Key West and Galveston, C. H. Mallory; Sea Dog, (new,) Allen, Brunswick, Simpson, Clapp & Co.; Abby Wasson, (new,) Wasson, Savannah, Bentley, Miller & Thomas; Silver Lake, Reid, Norfolk, C. E. Staples; Plymouth Rock, Chase, Boston; S. J. Smith, Baldwin, New-Haven; S. P. Godwin, Waterbury, Stamford.

Arrived.

Steam-ship Pennsylvania, (Br.,) Lawson, Liverpool, Dec. 8, and Queenstown 9th, with mdse. and 254 passengers to F. W. J. Hurst. Dec. 10, lat. 51 23, lon. 15 15, passed an N. G. steamer bound east.

Steam-ship Lafayette, (Fr.,) Rousseau, Havre Dec. 8, Southampton 9th, and Brest 10th, with mdse. and 38 passengers to Geo. Mackenzie.

Steam-ship Hatteras, Lawrence, Richmond, City Point and Norfolk, with mdse. and passengers to Old Dominion Steam-ship Company.

Steam-ship Wyanoke, Bowne, Norfolk, with mdse. and passengers to Old Dominion Steam-ship Co.

Steam-ship Niagara, Blakeman, Norfolk, with mdse. and passengers to Old Dominion Steam-ship Co.

Brig Richmond, (of Bangor,) Powers, Bordeaux 72 ds., with wine, &c., to D. St. Amant & Son. Has had moderate easterly winds up to the Banks, and since strong westerly gales, during which received some slight damage.

Brig J. Leighton, Leighton, Millbridge, Me., 15 ds., with lumber to Simpson & Clapp.

Bark Veteran, Cathcart, Cronstadt Oct. 28, and Elsinore 42 ds., via Edgartown Dec. 22, with hemp, &c., to Wm. Ropes & Co. Has had heavy westerly gales the entire passage; lost and split sails, lost boat, stove galley and had decks swept of everything moveable; Nov. 29, lat. 48 53, lon. 31 20, fell in with the bark Ina, of and for Bristol, England, from St. John, N. B., with a cargo of lumber, dismasted, and had her decks swept of boats, galley and everything else moveable, and 5 feet water in the hold; lay by her 2 ds., waiting for a chance to get the crew off, but neither of us having a boat, and it blowing heavy at the time, could not do it; after running down by her, and getting a line to her, for the purpose of getting them off in that way, they would not risk it, and said they would stay by the wreck and try to get her in some port, as she was lumber loaded and could not sink.

Bark P. A. Munch, (Norw.,) Breutsen, Cardiff 73 ds., with railroad-iron to order—vessel to Funch, Edye & Co. Has had strong westerly gales the entire passage. Nov. 7, lat. 27 09, lon. 17 07, spoke ship Hilda, from Christiansund, for New-Orleans.

Bark Virginia L. Stafford, (new, 482 tons,) Curry, of and from Windsor, N. S., 8 ds., with 300 tons plaster to master.

Schr. Hattie Lou, Shearer, North Carolina, for Philadelphia. Has had heavy westerly winds the entire passage; Dec. 18, had a heavy gale from W., and was blown 300 miles to sea; lost jibboom and jib, and part of deck-load of lumber, and sprung a leak; made Gay Head Dec. 22, and came by way of Long Island Sound; Dec. 21, 69 miles E. by S. from Montauk, spoke bark Venus, (Br.,) hence for Queenstown.

Schr. C. S. Bushnell, (of New-Haven,) Mayo, Genoa 65 ds., with marble and rags to J. B. Phillips & Sons—vessel to Bentley, Miller & Thomas. Passed Gibraltar Nov. 4, and had moderate weather up to Hatteras, from thence had strong westerly winds; Nov. 4, in the Straits, passed bark Shawmut, bound E.; Dec. 19, lat. 33 30, lon. 74 10, passed brig Hunter, bound S.; no date, &c., passed brig Melrose, bound S.

Schr. Minnetta, (of Stockton,) Crocker, Jacmel 20 ds., with coffee and logwood to Kunhardt & Co.—vessel to James E. Ward & Co. Has been 12 ds. N. of Hatteras, with N. W. gales; Dec. 15, off the Capes of Delaware, in a gale from N. W., lost foresail, jib, flying jib, and stove boat and galley; left in port brig Alice, for New-York in 8 ds.; schr. E. L. Simmons, for New-York in 12 ds.

Schr. F. Nickerson, Kelly, Philadelphia, for Boston, while at anchor in Flushing Bay, Dec. 23, was run into by the schr. E. L. Porter, carrying away her maintopmast, mainsail backstay, mainsail and davits, stove yawl-boat and wheel-gear, and unhung mainboom.

Schr. Mary G. Collins, (of Philadelphia,) Endicott, St. Martins 21 ds., with salt to Woodruff & Robinsons—vessel to J. M. Leonard. Has been 8 ds. N. of Hatteras with N. W. gales; left no vessels.

Schr. Mary E. Rankin, Fuller, Galveston 22 ds., with cotton, hides, &c., for Boston. Has had moderate weather.

Schr. Anna Martha, (Br.,) Belyea, St. John, N. B., 9 ds., with lumber to John Boynton's Son & Co.—vessel to Peter I. Nevius & Son.

Schr. Atlantic, (of Windsor, N. S.,) Davidson, Dorchester, N. B., 20 ds., with 208 tons building-stone to G. P. Sherman—vessel to Crandall, Berteaux & Co.

Schr. Susan Stetson, Yates, Jacmel 20 days, with coffee, logwood, &c., to A. Nones & Co.—vessel to S. C. Loud & Co. Has had moderate weather the entire passage.

Schr. B. Sherman, Crocker, Port Johnson, for Boston.

Schr. L. E. Coggswell, French, Port Johnson, for Boston.

Schr. Ann Elizabeth, Betts, Port Johnson, for Providence.

Schr. Alice Oakes, French, Port Johnson, for Boston.

Schr. Chas. E. Raymond, Kelly, Boston, for Philadelphia.

Schr. Soloit, Dexter, Bangor, with lumber for Newark.

Schr. Abbie H. Hodgman, Mitchell, Addison, with lumber to Simpson & Clapp.

Schr. Josephine, Baylis, Elizabethport, for Bridgeport.

Schr. Sarah Jane, Fordham, Elizabethport, for New-Haven.

Sloop Lady Jackson, Bennett, Elizabethport, for Norwalk.

Schr. Hattie, McIntyre, Gardiner, Me., with lumber to John Boynton's Son & Co.

Schr. S. C. Smith, Bangs, Gardiner, Me., with ice to Knickerbocker Ice Co.

Schr. John D. Griffin, Gould, Gloucester, with fish to J. A. Stetson.

Schr. Charley Miller, Pierce, New-Haven, for Virginia.

Schr. Brothers (of Harwich,) Eldridge, Norfolk for New-York, with corn for orders.

Schr. A. H. Hodgdon, Eaton, from Addison, with lumber and lath to Chase, Talbot & Co.

Schr. John Cadwallader, Carter, Hyannis, for Philadelphia.

Schr. Hannah Chase, Fenton, Portland, Conn.

Schr. Pearl, Smith, New-Haven, for Philadelphia.

Schr. Kit Carson, Allen, Virginia, for New-Haven.

Schr. James Lee, Ryan, Virginia, for Norwich.

Schr. Scud, Pettigrew, Virginia, for New-Haven.

Schr. Silver Bell, Bailey, Port Johnson, for Boston.

Schr. Sarah Maria, Long, Port Jefferson.

Schr. Harriet & Ned, Green, Bridgeport.

Schr. E. D. Phinney, McQuinlan, Lanesville.

Schr. Belle, Childs, Rockport.

Schr. Rachel Edwards, Edwards, Hartford.

Schr. Billow, Lynch, Hartford.

WIND—Sundown, moderate, N. W., hazy off shore.

Sailed.

Steam-ships Europa, for Glasgow; City of London, England, and Iowa, for Liverpool; City of Cork, for do.; City of Galveston, for Galveston; General Meade, Bienville, and Cortes, for New-Orleans; Sidonian, San Salvador, and Montgomery, for Savannah; Champion, for Charleston; Wyanoke, Albemarle, Hatteras and George B. Upton, for Richmond; E. C. Knight, for Washington.

By Telegraph.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.—The North German steamship Leipsic, from Bremen, arrd. today.

BOSTON, Dec. 24.—The schr. William R. Genn, of Barnstable, went ashore last night on Nantasket beach and bilged. The crew were saved. The vessel is under water at high tide, and is breaking up.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 24.—Passed in for Baltimore, steam-ship Leipzig, from Bremen, and brig Lopina. Passed out brig Harry, for the West Indies; brig H. H. Wright, for Norfolk.

HOLMES' HOLE, Dec. 23—A. M.—Arr. United States steamer Tallapoosa, Boston, Newport; schrs. Mary B. Dyer, Tangier, Boston; Ruth N. Atwood, Craney Island, do.; Howard Macomber, Philadelphia, Lynn; W. D. B. Providence, Portland; Anna Myrick, Newcastle, Del., for Newburyport; E. G. Sawyer, Hoboken, Machais; Melita, (Br.,) New-York, Bear River, N. S.; Lizzie Smith, Tangier, Salem; Lucy Jones, Hotchkiss, New-York.

Sld. schrs. E. C. Gates, Sarah C. Smith and Montebello, (Br.)

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 24.—Arr., steamer Potomac. A dispatch this morning from Capt. Cannon, announces that the Lee has been raised, and is now on her way to this city.

Spoken.

Dec. 11, lat. 27, lon. 66 30, schr. Abbott Lawrence, from Surinam, for Boston.

Miscellaneous.

The bark Arizona, Conant, from Catania, arr. 23d and anchored on the Bar; came up this A. M. and reports making the Southern passage, and has been 23 ds. from lat. 28 20, lon. 67 40; had been driven across the Gulf Stream twice with heavy N. W. gales; split sails, stove water-casks, hatch-house, &c.; Dec. 19, lat. 35 56, lon. 72 13, spoke brig Sophena (Br.,) from Genoa, for Baltimore, 74 ds. out.

EUROPEAN MARINE NEWS.

Arrival Out.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 24.—The National Line steamer France, from New-York, for Liverpool, arrived here at 4¼ o'clock yesterday morning.

Disasters.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The brigantine Fearless, Capt. Davidson, from Wilmington, N. C., via New-York, for London, was in collision with the Corona, forty miles off Beachy Head. The Fearless was so badly damaged that she was abandoned by her crew in a sinking condition.

The Medora and Lake Michigan, both from Montreal, report having experienced frightful weather. The former was considerably damaged.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

THE "BEECHERS OF TODAY;" Who and what they are; with portraits of Henry Ward Beecher, Catherine E., Mrs. Stowe, Edward, Charles and Thomas K. Beecher, given in January number PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL, new volume, $3 a year. Newsmen have it. The same number also contains:

CHEMISTRY, Its History, Progress and Importance; by Prof. Joy, of Columbia College. Also, H. B. CLAFLIN, the Merchant: His Portrait, Biography and Character; with an account of his life and success. And DREAM-LAND: very interesting experiments in Psychology. Do the living communicate with the departed? A question for scientific investigation. Also, THE IMAGINATION. Its uses in scientific thought and study. And PHYSICAL EDUCATION, with illustrations; Cause and Cure of Dyspepsia; Siberian Voracity; Effects of Grief; Influence of the Brain; The Source of Crime; Reformatory measures, &c. And FLORIDA as a Winter Home; Climate, Fruits, &c. Woman's Sphere and Influence. Shall Woman Vote? The Human Heart. Decision; a good thing for Boys. Also, THE MORMONS, Ethnologically considered; Who and what they are; The American Element; The English Mormon; The Scotchman; The Welsh; Scandinavian; Polygamy; The Mormon Faith; The Elders. And CURRENT TOPICS—Education; Mechanism; Free Labor; The Tariff vs. Free Trade; Our Mineral Resources. And WHAT CAN WOMAN DO? Pursuits to which she is best adapted; The Study of Man; Temperance vs. Godliness; Leigh Hunt as an Essayist; What Shall I Do? Adventures of a Non-combatant; A Sketch of the Late War. THE CONDOR; with engraving; its habits and peculiarities; Poetical proverbs. MENTORIAL—May I Marry my Cousin? Baldness; Near-sightedness; Weakening of the Brain; Astrology; Use and Value of the Hair; Female Suffrage in Wyoming; THE SCIENCE OF MAN, in outline, with 44 illustrations. All this and much more in the JANUARY NUMBER of the PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL. 30 cents. New vol., $3 a year; ten copies, $20. Newsmen have it. Address S. R. WELLS, No. 389 Broadway, New-York.

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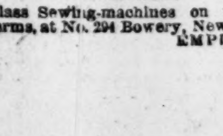

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